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FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SOUTH GEORGIA ISLANDS CONFLICT

Argentines Provisioned

PY261920 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1411 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA) -- The Argentine Government reportedly ordered the landing of provisions on Saint Peter Island of the South Georgia Islands, to supply the group of Argentine citizens who have been there since Sunday, while the British Government has reportedly authorized the use of force to evict them. According to an EFE report from London, the Argentine Embassy [as received] has ordered the landing of provisions on that island to supply the Argentine citizens who arrived on Sunday, citing London officials. EFE also reports that the British Navy ship Endurance is near the island with 12 marines, awaiting orders from the admiralty.

An ANSA cable from London also reports that the British Government has authorized the use of force -- as the ultimate resort -- in case the Argentine citizens refuse to leave the island, according to a report by the DAILY TELEGRAPH. ANSA added that this newspaper also reported that Great Britain had asked Argentina to withdraw the group of scrap traders before the operation is carried out by the British Navy.

Issue Serious

PY270207 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0110 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Minister Costa Mendez stated here tonight that the situation in the South Georgia Islands "is a serious issue over which we are concerned, and the republic is willing to grant the workers on Leigh Island all the necessary diplomatic protection and guarantees." Costa Mendez made these statements in the press room of San Martin Palace when he returned from the meeting held by the military committee to which he was summoned to report.

Warship Sent to Area

PY270159 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0145 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez tonight reported that the government has ordered the navy warship Bahia Paraiso to go to the area of the South Georgia Islands. Costa Mendez made this announcement when he gave details of the meeting being held tonight by the military committee in the Libertador building, Army Headquarters.

President Makes No Decision

PY272012 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0352 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA) -- President Leopoldo Galtieri affirmed tonight that the military committee had analyzed "the present problem with Great Britain and the events at the South Georgia Islands and the Malvinas Islands."

In an improvised conversation with journalists assigned to the Casa Rosada, where he returned after midnight following a prolonged meeting of the military committee in the Libertador building, the president also referred to a report made to that organization by Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez.

"We heard an updated explanation by the foreign minister on topics which have to do with the Republic of Argentina's foreign relations, both in the United Nations, such as in the (UN) Security Council, and the progress of the mediation of the holy father," the president noted.

"That is, all the fundamental problems involving international relations," he concluded, without giving details.

When a journalist asked him if the military committee had taken any decision concerning the crisis with Great Britain, the president answered indirectly in the negative, but without totally discarding the possibility.

"They are actions pertinent to diplomacy," he stated "which come within the scope of the national government and which have to do with the circumstances which the relations between Great Britain and Argentina are going through."

UK Sending More Warships

PY271852 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1715 GMT 27 Mar 82

[By Robert Powell]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Argentine and British warships are today at the South Georgia Islands, sharpening the disputes between those two nations over that territory, over which both Buenos Aires and London claim sovereignty.

The Buenos Aires newspaper CLARIN today cited naval sources as saying that the [Argentine] guided missile corvetts Drummond and Grandville had been sent to that area and added that there had been an increase in the activity at the naval bases at Mar del Plata and Belgrano.

A spokesman at the British embassy said that the principal thing was to continue conversations and to find a solution instead of fighting about it.

Costa Mendez has hardened the Argentine position on the Malvinas problem since becoming foreign minister in December and he has pressured Great Britain to speed up the negotiations for the transfer of the Malvinas Islands to Argentina.

The current incident began when 39 Argentines disembarked on 19 March on Saint Peter Island in order to dismantle a whaling station built at Leigh Bay.

The Foreign Office in London issued a protest saying that the Argentines had not complied with the necessary customs procedures at the tiny British Antarctic research base at Grytviken on Saint Peter Island and that they illegally raised an Argentine flag.

The British base contains about 10 British scientists who are studying the winter conditions in that area, which is already experiencing strong winds and snow; and officials of the Malvinas Islands estimate that there are 6 to 10 persons in the Argentine group.

But the Argentine company Georgia del Sur, S.A. which has the contract with the British owners Christian Salvesen Ltd, to dismantle the whaling station made a statement yesterday saying that 39 men had been landed on the island. A spokesman for the company told REUTERS that the group would stay on Saint Peter until they finished dismantling the station, but he declined to specify how long that task would take.

The British Government said on Tuesday that it was negotiating for the immediate departure of the Argentines.

More UK Ship Movements

PY280007 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2329 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar 82 (TELAM) -- Throughout today contacts have been intensified in governmental circles and coordination measures taken in order to get diplomatic guarantees for the security of the Argentines who are on Saint Peter Island in the South Georgia Islands.

Foreign diplomatic sources found out tonight that Great Britain is planning to reinforce its naval detachment in the Malvinas Islands with troops of the so-called assault marines who are being carried by the ship Discoe. The same source revealed that the British ship Endurance -- also with marines on board -- is maintaining its position of intimidation against the Argentines who are working at Leigh Bay.

Situation 'Worrying'

PY280054 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dr Nicanor Costa Mendez tonight upon leaving San Martin Palace said that there have been no new developments in the problem with Great Britain over the South Georgia Islands, adding that the situation continues to be worrying.

He said that he would receive British Ambassador Anthony Williams tomorrow at 0930; and, when asked if he would turn over to the ambassador the Foreign Ministry's answer to the informal proposal presented by the British diplomat, Costa Mendez answered: I cannot tell you anything, because it would be a breach of diplomatic courtesy, since I cannot pass on anything without first seeing the ambassador. To another question, he answered that no contacts had been made during the day with national authorities "because we have been working intensively all day with my staff."

UK Ship Movement Intimidation

PY280111 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (NA) -- A high diplomatic source reported tonight that the Argentine Government has information of a decision by the British Government to transfer the ship Discoe to the vicinity of the South Georgia Islands. The British ship is now sailing toward the southern Argentine seas, transporting a contingent of assault marines, according to the source. The government spokesman said that the Argentine Government considers the British attitude to be an intention to intimidate Argentina.

HERALD Reports

PY282308 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 28 Mar 82 p 1

[Excerpt] An official identified by reliable sources as Public Information Secretary Rodolfo Baltierrez last night reportedly told a small group of journalists in a "background" conference that the Argentine Government has learnt of an alleged British decision to send the "Discoe" warship to the south Atlantic, as tension mounted over the South Georgia incident between the two nations yesterday.

But usually well-informed sources in London last night told the HERALD that no such information was available there.

According to the informal briefing journalists received in Buenos Aires, the Argentine Government considers the alleged British move "an attempt to intimidate Argentina." The warship was known to be carrying Marine troops, the government official said.

The British "Endurance" and the Argentine "Bahia Paraiso" are already in South Georgia waters following the landing on San Pedro Island on March 19 of a group of Argentine workers intent on dismantling for scrap a 40-year-old whaling factory once owned by the Ediuburgh Salvesen Company and bought by an Argentine in 1979.

Neither the "Endurance" nor the "Bahia Paraiso" are heavily armed, both being Antarctic support vessels. Sources told the HERALD yesterday that the "Bahia Paraiso" was "highly unlikely" to be carrying marine infantry troops as reported in the press, since the ship had been on its Antarctic campaign, going back and forth between the Antarctic and the Tierra del Fuego port of Ushuaia, before starting on its way to the South Georgias.

Officials Meet

LD290620 London Press Association in English 0430 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Angry Tory backbenchers are expected to attack the government over defence cuts, in today's Commons debate on Trident, using the Falklands scrap metal workers "invasion" to press their point. They claimed yesterday that the incident has shown that navy resources are being over-stretched.

Diplomats were yesterday continuing their bid to solve the "invasion" issue peacefully.

As Britain's gunboat HMS Endurance lay anchored off South Georgia, in the south Atlantic -- and there were reports that Argentina had sent up to five warships to the area -- the British ambassador in Buenos Aires met Argentine Foreign Ministry officials.

"We want to avoid at all costs any confrontation," said a British Embassy spokesman. "Certainly both sides are looking to find a diplomatic way out."

The Defence Ministry said there were no plans to send reinforcements and the nearest British frigate is believed to be several-thousand miles away in the Caribbean and would take at least a week to reach the area.

Tory MP Mr Winston Churchill, vice-chairman of the party's backbench defence committee, said yesterday: "This shows how dangerous it is to indulge in gunboat diplomacy unless there are enough gunboats available.

"This proves that the Royal Navy is now seriously overstretched, and more money needs to be spent on naval needs.

"It is right to use diplomacy at present, but it would be most unfortunate if 30 or 40 British marines were taken prisoner."

The incident began just over a week ago when about 60 Argentines landed on South Georgia without permission, claiming they were collecting scrap metal. However some were armed, and the Argentine flag was raised. Most left after a British protest, but a group of between six and 10 remained and MPs were told in the Commons last week that arrangements were being made to take them off.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR COLOMBIA 26 MARCH

PY261815 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1307 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM) -- Argentine Economy Minister Roberto Alemann left this morning for Cartagena, Colombia, to attend the IDB governors conference. The finance minister left at 1000 from the Ezeiza International Airport. Representative leaders of financial organizations of our country also left in the same plane.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PY262031 Paris AFP in Spanish 1903 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 26 Mar (AFP) -- Bolivian Foreign Minister Gonzalo Romero Alvarez Garcia said here today that Bolivia, in accordance with the Estrada Doctrine, is going to recognize the military junta who have just taken over power in Guatemala. He also gave his views on Bolivian international relations. In this regard, he noted that the members of the Andean Pact are adopting a new attitude aimed at building confidence and mutual cooperation among the member-countries.

He said that the problems of relations with Ecuador have practically been resolved and that it is expected that an exchange of ambassadors will take place in the coming weeks. However, he recognized that with Venezuela the situation is in a status quo since relations are only at the charge d'affaires level. He also announced that Hungary, Belgium and Canada will accredit their ambassadors to Bolivia in the next few days, a situation which will permit Bolivia to be able to get several pending credits. The foreign minister emphasized that the government fully guarantees freedom of the press.

MILITARY PERSONNEL CONFINED TO QUARTERS

PY271445 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1350 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 27 Mar (TELAM) -- Military personnel of the three major cities of Bolivia were confined to quarters today in keeping with a decision made by the armed forces commanders to establish night patrols in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz de la Sierra in order to avoid political agitation. The measure was adopted at a meeting held today by the high military command to discuss the events that took place yesterday in Cochabamba -- where 5 persons died and 11 were wounded by gunfire.

The information was confirmed by military spokesmen who reported that the meeting was attended by the president, Gen Celso Torrelio Villa; the three commanders of the armed forces; and by the chiefs of staff of the army, the air force and the naval force.

BLOODSHED AT COCHABAMBA LABOR DEMONSTRATION

PY252120 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2110 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 26 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Radio San Rafael has reported that two workers were killed and about five were injured as the result of a labor demonstration held in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba today and dispersed by army forces and police.

Radio San Rafael said that troops of the 7th army division, stationed in this city nearly 450 km southeast of here, stopped the demonstrators from entering the main plaza by using teargas and firearms. The reporter told this news agency that two workers died in this operation; one of them was from the Bolivian Cement Cooperation and the other from the EDU [expansion unknown] shoe factory.

The economic measures approved by the government in the last few days, which first included a 76 percent devaluation and then the creation of a mixed exchange system with an official and free market, was received critically by various national sectors. Today bank workers were on their second day of strike throughout the enitre country, while other labor sectors in La Paz, such as the electrical power company, are on an indefinite strike. The air controllers in the airports of throughout the country today were on their fourth day of strike in demand of better wages.

Curfew Extended

PY270240 Paris AFP in Spanish 0219 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Excerpt] La Paz, 27 Mar (AFP) -- According to a report by Radio Fides here today the riots which resulted in 6 dead workers and 11 injured have compelled Cochabamba prefect Col Guido Sandoval Saavedra to extend the curfew hours in this city, in the center of Bolivia, by 2 hours.

As a consequence, the curfew in Cochabamba lasts from 2200 until 0600 while in the rest of the country it is from 0100 until 0600. The riots stemmed from a demonstration called by the factory workers to protest the floating of the currency decreed by Gen Celso Torrelio Villa's administration which has driven dozens of enterprises to bankruptcy it was stated.

It was also learned that members of the special forces training center (parachutists) and of the Ustariz Regiment are patrolling Cochabamba City while the Barrientos regiment has surrounded Quillacollo, which is where the Manaco shoe factory is located.

This morning the workers of this factory demanded the resignation of President Torrelio Villa, whom they termed incapable of solving the national problems.

Communique Issued

PY271500 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Mar 82

["Text" of Interior Ministry 26 March communique]

[Text] The Interior, Migration and Justice Ministry regrets to report to the public that five persons died today Friday, 26 March, in the city of Cochabamba as a result of an uprising which some have been trying to organize in that city.

The incident occurred despite appropriate warnings issued by national and local officials and a ban on political demonstrations. The ban had been imposed precisely in anticipation that incidents of this nature could have such serious consequences due to the action of the agents of extremism, who will not hesitate to shed the blood of their brothers in order to groom new martyrs, to achieve their designs and to further discredit the country.

The armed forces government has in due time promoted a fraternal, sincere, responsible dialogue with labor representatives to achieve a union opening which will provide the workers with an instrument designed to defend their interests.

Acting with exemplary maturity and turning a deaf ear to the subversive instigations of the enemies of the nation, mineworkers of the cities of La Paz, Santa Cruz, Oruro, Potosi, Sucre, Tarija, Trinidad and Pando were able to obtain wage increases and other benefits through the above union opening.

It is unfortunate that the workers of the city of Cochabamba, due to their being deceived by professional agitators and subversives, have overlooked the pain endured by the Bolivian people due to the disastrous floods in the eastern part of the country and in Cochabamba Department itself. While a national emergency situation like this should have caused us to join efforts, they committed today the excesses that has brought mourning to the fatherland.

Under the leadership of expert agitators, the Cochabamba demonstrators stoned the prefecture office, the immigration building, the national telecommunications company, damaged private vehicles and finally looted a store for hunting weapons, stealing rifles and shotguns with which they opened fire at the security forces.

As a result of the shooting and the action of snipers who, from strategic positions, fired at their own people, 5 persons died and 11 were wounded -- some seriously. The Interior Ministry (?ordered) today the arrest of those snipers to bring them to trial.

The incidents that took place in the city of Cochabamba are related to the terrorist attacks that were perpetrated in the city of La Paz on the night of Thursday, 25 March. The clash discloses the existence of a preconceived plan to launch subversion and agitation and reveals that the action of the Cochabamba workers was not prompted only by the human, reasonable intentions of protesting the acute crisis the country has been experiencing.

The Interior Ministry also wants to make it quite clear that the military units stationed in the city of Cochabmaba had only initiated actions designed to guarantee peace, control and public order as of 1800 and that at no time did a clash take place between military personnel and demonstrators.

In the face of this new attack on peace, the armed forces government calls upon the citizenry to reflect and to not let themselves be misguided by those demagogues of death who first instigate the workers and then leave them alone to their fate, wounded if not dead.

The Interior Ministry reiterates at this time that, complying with the law, it will not tolerate actions which will disrupt public order and will endanger the security of the people; and to this end, it has alerted and mobilized all government security organizations.

Warning Reiterated

PY271600 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1442 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 27 Mar (TELAM) -- The Bolivian Government today reiterated that it would not permit any kind of action that disrupts the tranquillity and order which the country needs now more than ever. This was announced in an Interior Ministry communique which issued a new warning to the population after the grave disturbances which occured in Cochabamba and which caused the deaths of 5 persons.

While we have acted tolerantly up to now, starting today no kind of action will be permitted which disrupts the tranquillity and order which the country needs now more than ever, the communique states.

The government announcement also indicated that more very severe sanctions would be made against those elements who do not appreciate the government's policy of relaxation and it reiterates that the armed forces remain firm in their determination to continue with the economic reorganization program until the goals set forth in the 3-year plan have been reached.

The communique then says that the people have accepted the social cost of the economic measures, but the external politickers plan to take advantage of circumstances through an agitation campaign which exhausts all consideration and tolerance.

After recalling that the grave economic crisis is not the fault of the current government and that the solutions will only be achieved with the sacrifice of all Bolivians, the communique says that there are no magic formulas which can improve the national economy in a few days, but once the current difficulties are overcome, everything will develop favorably.

But for this, the communique concludes, we must not listen to rumors and provocations, and all incitement to criticize and violence must be rebuffed.

President Asked To Resign

PY261729 Paris AFP in Spanish 1517 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 26 Mar (AFP) -- About 1,000 workers at the Manaco shoe factory in Cochabamba have called for President Celso Torrelio Villa's resignation because he is not capable of governing the country. The petition was approved by the majority of workers during an assembly held after a demonstration that was staged to criticize the economic measures adopted last Monday in response to impositions of the IMF. The regime's advisers, it was said during the assembly, have proven a complete ineptness that is driving the country to total chaos.

FOREIGN MINISTER SARAIVA GUERREIRO ON VISIT TO PRC

For reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro to the PRC, including talks with Vice Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Deng Xiaoping, Premier Zhao Ziyang and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua, and the signing of a scientific and technical cooperation agreement between the PRC and Brazil, see the Western Hemisphere section of the 23 March and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

Talks With Hua

FY251036 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Mar 82 p 7

[By O ESTADO's correspondent Chico Dias]

[Excerpts] Beijing -- Deng Xiaoping, vice chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and the most influential figure in the PRC today, will receive Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro tomorrow. This meeting is not on the official agenda of the Brazilian foreign minister. Commenting on this gesture by the Chinese official Saraiva said: "The invitation can be considered a deference to the Brazilian Government because Deng Xiaoping does not hold the position of a chief of state and thus he is not obliged by protocol to receive me. The invitation reflects the intentions of furthering rapprochement between the PRC and Brazil."

In the talks he held yesterday with his PRC counterpart Huang Hua, Saraiva Guerreiro outlined the overall Brazilian diplomacy, elaborating on certain areas such as its position toward South Africa and the Central American crisis, namely that of El Salvador. Commenting on this meeting, Saraiva said: "The Chinese officials listened to me attentively, asking many questions and conveying their keen interest in understanding our position. The idea of giving an overall view of the two countries' international relations, agreed upon on the occasion of receiving the invitation for this meeting from Foreign Minister Huang Hua last year in Cancun, is being carefully complied with. We are discussing all kinds of issues, even the East-West tensions and the North-South dialogue. I took the opportunity to reaffirm our invitation to Huang Hua to visit Brazil and I believe he will accept it."

Guerreiro attaches great significance to his talks with Huang Hua. He said: "These two meetings are for me the high points of my visit. In reality this is a political visit which perhaps many people cannot understand but which will be a landmark in our foreign policy. It is necessary to make it quite clear that I am neither closing nor opening a new stage in Brazilian diplomacy. I am just establishing a position in our relationship with the PRC. The minister denies that he is heading a trade mission to Beijing. He said: "Although I included representatives of industrial and commercial sectors in my entourage such as Laerte Setubal, president of the Brazilian Association of Exporters and Antonio de Oliveira Santos, president of the National Commercial Confederation, I am not heading a delegation which is seeking commercial goals or large deals. The importance Brazil has today on the international scene alone justifies my presence in the PRC."

Guerreiro said that the visit stems primarily from the common belief that relations between the two countries have matured and that there exist conditions conducive to greater rapprochement.

Policies Compared

FY251611 Paris AFP in Spanish 1359 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Beijing, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Observers pointed out today that the talks being held by Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro in Beijing have revealed the difference between the Brazilian and PRC position toward the USSR and the United States.

After the meetings held by Saraiva Guerreiro and Vice Premier Huang Hua, who is also the foreign affairs minister, a spokesman for the Brazilian delegation said there is no full agreement between the Brazilian and the PRC foreign policies.

When asked about the USSR and the United States, the spokesman indicated that the relations between those countries and the PRC and Brazil are of a different nature.

The observers have stressed that Brazil maintains satisfactory relations with the United States and fruitful economic relations with the USSR while the PRC is constantly reproaching the two countries for their position as superpowers.

The news agency XINHUA, reporting on the meeting held today by Saraiva Guerreiro and Huang, has stated that the PRC foreign minister said that his country is opposed to hegemony [this word is habitually used by Beijing to refer to the USSR] and that the people want to defend their national dignity and that they refuse to bend to the pressures of the superpowers. This is a clear reference to the issue between the United States and [illegible] over Taiwan. When asked about the statement made by Huang on this matter, the Brazilian spokesman refused to answer, but he added that the PRC foreign minister did not provide new elements regarding PRC-U.S. relations.

Saraiva, who arrived here on Sunday, will meet CCP Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang tomorrow. He will leave Beijing on Friday for an official 2-day visit to Shanghai and then he will start his official visit to Japan.

DETAILS OF SUGAR SHIPMENTS TO USSR REPORTED

PY252024 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 24 Mar 82 p 7

[Text] Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST) -- 32 thousand tons of granulated sugar were shipped to Russia via the Greek ship Kavo Xifias from the Brazilian port of Maceio. This represents the largest shipment made at one time by the sugar agricultural industry of Alagoas. The association for the sugar industry affirmed not to have any contracts with the Soviet Government and that the sales transactions were made through "operation houses." The total sugar sales to the Soviet Union amounts to 200,000 tons. Out of which 186,000 have been already shipped. This month, the Greek ship Nevada should carry 10 tons. [as published] Afterwards another ship will transport the 4,000 tons left over. The largest shipments from the Alagoas sugar producing area were to the Soviet Union and the U.S. Recently 18 ships anchored in the port of Maceio transported 270,000 tons of sugar to the U.S. and still this month they should finish shipping the 200,000 tons to the Soviet Union.

PMDB'S LUCENA VOWS TO FIGHT ELECTORAL CHANGES

PY250119 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Mar 82

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Humberto Lucena, leader of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] in the Senate, today went up to the rostrum to read a document released by his party to protest changes made by the government to the electoral law, charging that the government's ultimate objective is to perpetuate itself in office.

On reading the document, Lucena said that it was designed to give peace of mind to those democratic, patriotic opposition members who have been fighting to make it possible for the people not to have just a sham democracy but a true democracy which can only be achieved on the basis of a constituent assembly.

In the document, the PMDB states its decision to not let the election be set up as a fraud and warns that the party will not hesitate to take the matter to the court to safeguard its rights.

ENVOY TO ATTEND URGENT MEETING ON CENTRAL AMERICA

PA242244 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- President Ronald Reagan's government has today called an urgent meeting of the foreign affairs ministers of the Central American Democratic Community to be held tomorrow in Washington starting at 1500. Reliable diplomatic sources in Bogota have disclosed that the foreign affairs ministers of Colombia and Venezuela were also invited to attend but that the two governments had appointed plenipotentiary ambassadors to represent them.

The conference of Central American foreign affairs ministers will be headed by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

The Colombian Government will soon appoint a top official of the Colombian Embassy in Washington to represent the country, since the head of the mission there, Fernando Gaviria Cadavid, is currently in Bogota.

The meeting of foreign affairs ministers will deal with the latest developments in Central America, particularly with the de facto coup that has just taken place in Guatemala where President Romeo Lucas Garcia was overthrown and a military junta has taken office.

Diplomatic sources did not disclose further details of the meeting, which has been termed urgent by those same sources.

COMMISSION OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES TALKS WITH REBELS

PA261740 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- The peace commission has officially announced its decision to hold talks with members of subversive groups and has asked the government to grant safe-conducts to rebels who want to negotiate with its emissaries.

Confirming a report issued exclusively by CARACOL, the peace commission issued a declaration detailing the steps that it is taking in an attempt to pacify the country.

The commissioners state in their report to the nation that despite the terrorist activities of the past few days and the aggressive statements made by persons who are under arrest or who have been convicted of crimes that are not covered by decree 474 of 1982 [the amnesty decree], the commission has not refused to listen to members of subversive groups who, with or without the permission of their comrades, have wished to express their opinion regarding the pacification of the country.

The commission's report adds that the organization has always realized that pacification cannot be achieved overnight or by a single act of government. The commissioners revealed that at present they are studying the cases of persons who have been tried or convicted for crimes that are not covered by decree 474. They indicated, however, that the measures they take will remain within the laws of the state and will take into account the conduct of subversive groups and the willingness to promote peace demonstrated by their leaders.

The report confirms that a subcommittee headed by Jose Luis Serna, bishop of Florencia, has been appointed to hear proposals from the subversive groups operating in Caqueta. It adds that other regional committees will be sent to areas in which guerrillas are active.

The commission reaffirmed its basic premise: That it rejects violence in any form and that the legal authorities are exclusively responsible for repressing all kinds of common or political crimes.

TERRORISTS BLOW UP AYACUCHO RADIO STATION

PY261906 Paris AFP in Spanish 0342 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Interior Minister Gen Jose Gagliardi reported in Lima this afternoon that the radio station of Ayacucho, located in the center of the southern part of Peru, was blown up this morning with dynamite. The Department of Ayacucho and its capital city of the same name have been under a state of emergency and with constitutional rights suspended since 3 March 1982, when extremist groups attacked police stations and the Ayacucho city prison, allowing the escape of 300 prisoners and causing the death of 16 persons, including 2 policemen.

TERRORISTS ATTACK LIMA COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

PY282129 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1635 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 27 Mar (TELAM) -- Last night groups of terrorists attacked various commercial establishments in Lima during a blackout of a part of the city as a result of the blowing up of a high-tension tower, which was dynamited in order to facilitate the vandalism. The state enterprise Electro Lima confirmed that a tower on the Mantaro-Pomacochas line was destroyed by terrorists, knocking it out of order. Lima ceased to receive 320,000 kilowatts, which forced the cutting of electrical current of six districts in the capital. At that time, about 20 men attacked a commercial center with rocks and incendiary bombs, carrying out acts of vandalism and attempted robberies. The police detained 15 youths who had almost 30 Molotov cocktails. Moreover, one person was injured and the damages have not yet been estimated.

At the same time, 20 incendiary bombs were thrown at the townhall of Miraflores, where a civil wedding was being held while various other localities were also attacked. At the townhall there were some injuries when the wedding participants became alarmed by the explosions and precipitously descended the stairs, causing some falls. The attacking mob was dispersed by police cars and five suspects were detained.

In the city of Chimbote, 400 km north of Lima, the second attack of this week occurred when a dynamite charge exploded at a bank, but without causing major damage.

Meanwhile, the government prepared to declare a state of emergency in Andahuaylas Province in Apurimac Department and in Angaraes Province in Huancavelica Department, both southeast of Lima, due to terrorist activities in that area.

On the other hand, a decree lifted the state of emergency in Lucanas and Parinacochas Provinces in Ayacucho Department, southeast of Lima, where there has been no evidence of significant subversive activity which would justify the extension of the state of emergency that was imposed on 3 March, according to the government. With the exception of Lucanas and Parinacochas, the state of emergency continues in the rest of Ayacucho Department.

EXPLOSIVES DEPOT ATTACKED UNSUCCESSFULLY

PY270222 Lima EL COMERCIO In Spanish 8 Mar 82 p A-15

[By Hipolito Gonzalez Guisa]

[Excerpt] Ayacucho, 7 Mar -- Members of the civil guard today prevented the blowing up of a powder magazine of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications [MTC] near this city by terrorists at 0100 in the morning. It was the third attack during last night and the early morning of today. The republican guardsmen exchanged gunfire with the subversives, who threw bombs futilely intending to blow up that storehouse of explosives and combustibles, which is cut into a hill in Huichyana zone, 3.5 km from this city. The two guard dogs of that MTC installation were found dead yesterday morning, poisoned by strychnine. The first attack was against the house of the mayor of Ayacucho, Jorge Mauregui Mejia, at midnight. The second occurred in the outskirts of the drinking water plant. There was no damage in either case.

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT CONFIRMS U.S.-NICARAGUA TALKS

FL270245 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0215 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Foreign Secretariat today ratified the validity of the announcement made this afternoon by Mexican Ambassador to the United Nations Porfirio Munoz Ledo in the sense that representatives of the United States and Nicaragua will meet in Mexico next April to negotiate the two countries' differences.

With respect to a declaration of the U.S. State Department in the sense that the announcement was premature, the Foreign Secretariat said that, to the contrary, "it faithfully reflects the results of the conversations held by Mexico's foreign secretary the past 3 weeks with high officials of the United States and Nicaragua."

Munoz Ledo today stated at the United Nations that "at our country's suggestion, the United States and Nicaragua have agreed to meet on a political level in Mexico City next April to discuss the principal issues separating them." The Mexican representative added: "Doubtlessly, for these conversations to have the results we all desire, it will be necessary to put aside the threats and recriminations which lementably have intensified in recent weeks."

Munoz Ledo asked the United States and Nicaragua "to agree on a truce of silence to allow for the creation of a favorable climate of understanding." Finally, the Mexican diplomat explained that two parallel roads are now being followed: confrontation and negotiation. He added that Mexico advocates the second and noted that "in accepting the proposal, the United States and Nicaragua have indicated they too prefer it. Confrontation and negotiation are incompatible. Let's give the two sides an opportunity to understand each other," Munoz Ledo said in closing his speech at the United Nations.

FINANCE SECRETARY ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS

FL262244 [Editorial report] Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 2010 GMT on 26 March reports that after receiving presidential approval, Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog made these appointments in his secretariat:

Under secretary	Antonio Enriques Savignac
Director general of credit	Carlos Sales Guiterrez
Director general of fiscal promotion	Mauricio de Maria y Campos
Director general of customs	Javier Garduno Perez
Chief of advisers	Juan Foncerrada
Private secretary	Alejandro de Pedro Cordova
Private secretary	Lucrecia Franco
Director general of communications, replacing Heriberto Galindo	Rafael Resendiz Contreras

The following officials were ratified in their posts:

Under secretary for revenue	Guillermo Prieto Fortun
Under secretary for fiscal inspection	Salvador Trueba Rodriguez
Chief of staff	Ignacio L. Madrazo
Treasurer of the federation	Juan Jose Paramo Diaz
Prosecutor of the fedration	Miguel Valdes Villarreal
Director general of the Mint	Napoleon Gomez Urrutia

BRIEFS

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT -- Mexico, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican National Institute for Nuclear Research [ININ] and the U.S. Los Alamos national laboratory today signed a bilateral cooperation accord in nuclear technology. The accord in nuclear technology. The accord was signed by Dalmau Costa Alonso, ININ director, and Donald Kerr, director of the Los Alamos laboratory. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0350 GMT 26 Mar 82 FL]

ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN, PAPERS REJECT TAMBS APPOINTMENT

De Leon Arias Statement

PA281519 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Mar 82 pp 1, 10

[By Pablo Castrejon Jr.]

[Text] "The alleged appointment of Lewis A. Tambs as U.S. ambassador to Panama is a plot against the nationalist sentiments and dignity of the Panamanian people. It also is a plot against national public order, which will contribute to damaging diplomatic relations between the United States and Panama," said the chairman of the National Assembly and the National Legislation Council, Dr Luis de Leon Arias, in an exclusive statement to LA REPUBLICA.

Dr Leon Arias also said: "This fellow Tambs was one of the principal opponents to the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Besides, he was an unwarranted adversary of the leader of the Panamanian revolution, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera." Dr de Leon Arias concludes his statement: "It is up to us Panamanians to turn down the possible appointment of this foreigner as ambassador to Panama as he has offended the patriotic sentiments of our nation."

As chairman of one of the branches making up the Panamanian state, he believes the appointment of a diplomat such as U.S. Ambassador Lewis A. Tambs, a representative of the reaction against the Torrijos-Carter treaties is an imposition on the sovereignty of the state. The Panamanian repudiates the Reagan administration's appointment of Tambs as ambassador to our country because such an appointment will damage our diplomatic relations. De Leon Arias added that should Tambs' appointment become effective, it would be a challenge to the sovereign integrity and the dignity of the Panamanian people. To patriotic Panamanians, this is a declaration of the undesirability and persona non grata status of Lewis A. Tambs who was not accepted for a similar post by a democratic government like Venezuela.

LA REPUBLICA Editorial

PA262110 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Mar 82 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "An Offense We Must Not Accept"]

[Text] Panamanians have received with patriotic indignation the U.S. Government's intention of appointing a gentleman named L.A. Tambs ambassador to Panama. His credentials include having been considered unfit for the post of ambassador to Venezuela by the U.S. secretary of state. Regardless of any other positive or negative aspects, to us, he is intolerable -- he is an enemy of our country. This is how he revealed himself during the negotiations on the new canal treaties, which he fought harshly, even slanderously, attributing to General Torrijos the intention of forming alliances with adversaries of the United States.

This individual revealed himself to be an enemy of Panama and of Panamanians by opposing our most sacred cause, the winning of our full sovereignty and the recovery of the Panama Canal. All Panamanians are united in defending this cause. That the U.S. President is planning to appoint this individual as ambassador shows serious disrespect for our country and is an intolerable offense against us.

We set forth our strongest protest against such an offensive and disrespectful intention, which ignores and tramples on the price and dignity of an independent and sovereign nation which, when confronted by the United States in the struggle for its ideals of freedom and justice, grew from small stature to world admiration, respect and applause. Our government should not accept the proposed ambassador. The Panamanian people will not accept him either because this would be humiliating.

In this regard, the ignorance displayed by the news agency that transmitted this information this morning is surprising as it expressed doubt that Panama could reject an ambassador designated by President Reagan. This expression implies a veiled and clumsy threat. The editor of this report is ignorant of the fact that Panama, like any other country, has the freedom and right to reject any diplomatic envoy not to its liking. To this end, international law and diplomacy include diplomatic means of denying acceptance without offending the government making the designation, simply by not answering a request for agreement on the naming of an ambassador. In this particular case, Panama can exercise this right and this power, which is inherent to its sovereignty, regardless of whether this designation, which so deeply hurts our dignity and our patriotism, is made by President Reagan or by the most powerful ruler on earth.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA Editorial

PA281429 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Mar 82 p 1-A, 4-A

[Editorial: "A Serious Imprudence"]

[Text] Relations between our country and the United States are based on problems concerning the canal. The 7 long decades during which the 1903 treaty was in effect were a continuous chain of confrontations between the two countries and this situation had an abrupt climax in the January 1964 events.

Thirteen years of hard negotiations concluded with the 1977 canal treaty that leaves Panamanian aspirations unsatisfied for the time being, but opened the door to our full independence and sovereignty because it establishes a specific deadline for complete recovery of the transit area and the end of the U.S. military presence in the Isthmus of Panama.

This pact, so different from previous ones, has served to replace confrontation with cooperation in canal matters and although there have been some uneasy moments, there has never been the degree of hostility that existed, at times, when the 1903 treaty was in effect. This change is due partly to the fact that most of the representatives from the two countries possess enough of the spirit, and are aware of the goals, of the treaty now in effect. The difficulties that have come up have not resulted in irreparable tension. Differences on the application of the 1977 treaty have been solved in a satisfactory manner.

There will always be differences of opinion on the application of the clauses of the treaty because a document of that nature always has ambiguous parts that can be solved with understanding. This can be done only if the representatives of the two sides have conciliatory attitudes regarding the meaning and objective of the bilateral relations that have been established based on the treaty. As we said before, even if there have been -- and inevitably they will emerge -- differences in the application of the treaty, what is important is that the officials of both countries are inclined toward complying with treaty obligations as much as possible to assure the final objective of the treaty.

The above explains and justifies our country's concern over reports that the present U.S. administration plans, or has already made the decision, to appoint Mr Lewis A. Tambs as ambassador to Panama. During the 1977 treaty debates, Mr Tambs was against Panama's aspiration to fully reestablish our sovereignty over the canal area. This person not only spoke angrily against the U.S. Senate ratification of the 1977 treaty, he also allowed his hatred to take him to the extreme of unjustly attacking the renowned standard bearer of the strongest nationalist aspirations of the Panamanians, Gen Omar Torrijos.

The mere possibility that Mr Tambs could be considered by the White House as a candidate to a post that has among its most specific and important functions, that of dealing with the application of the 1977 treaty, has brought much unease among Panamanians. Therefore, nothing will prevent the people from unhesitatingly and, categorically demonstrating their opposition to an appointment that could revive deep resentments that were beginning to disappear from the hearts of all Panamanians.

It is suitable to note that the regrettable appointment of Mr Tambs as chief of the U.S. Embassy in Panama comes when the United States is trying to make the Reagan plan viable. The Reagan plan is a new style of international cooperation based on the principles of understanding, solidarity and recognition of the responsibilities that the superindustrialized countries have toward the underdeveloped countries. Such an appointment would contradict the goals of that plan because the record of the alleged candidate disqualifies him for the job of carrying on with a program that involves any number of negotiations and agreements with a spirit of cooperation that this gentleman cannot have.

All these reasons lead us to believe that the candidacy of the already-mentioned person to U.S. ambassador in Panama is just a wrong supposition, a mere speculation, but even if it is nothing more than this, the idea is not only unbelievable, it is also a serious imprudence.

The people and Government of Panama could never accept Mr Tambs as a valid interlocutor under any circumstances, because Panamanian-U.S. relations have many aspects that involve problems of great importance for both countries and for Latin America in general.

NATIONAL GUARD TO RESTRUCTURE POLICE CORPS

PA262311 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Mar 82 pp 24, 10

[Text] Col Ruben D. Paredes, commander in chief of the national guard, met yesterday with members of the national guard staff, with national guard officers and with Lt Col Elias Castillo Figueroa, chief of the police corps.

During the meeting, Colonel Paredes said: "We are trying to improve the organization of the police corps since this is the preventive branch of the national guard and, therefore, requires a greater degree of professionalism and seriousness to give the community efficient service."

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the restructuring of the police corps and the creation of the "Panama" Engineers Battalion. Colonel Paredes also said the police corps reorganization is aimed at giving citizens a more efficient, scientific and specialized service.

During the meeting, it was said that one of the main goals would be the redistribution of the police services in various sectors of the metropolitan area so that the police will be able to operate with the necessary tools in specific areas. To accomplish the redistribution of police services in various sectors, the present facilities will be used to the extent possible; some will be expanded, and new installations will be built where required.

It was disclosed that the planned "Panama" Engineers Battalion will be made up of civilians and military who, together with specialists from the government offices, will improve services provided to the communities by the armed forces according to the guidelines established by the late Gen Omar Torrijos.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NO COMMENT ON GUATEMALA COUP

PA262115 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] For the time being, the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry will not comment on the coup d'etat in Guatemala, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has noted. The spokesman said that when this type of situation arises in a friendly country, the government applies the policy of maintaining relations with the state and not with the government. This is a principle of the Estrada doctrine, which recognizes countries and not governments. Therefore, before any definite decision is taken, developments must be studied.

For the time being there will be no change in diplomatic and commercial relations between Costa Rica and Guatemala, he said. Application of the Estrada doctrine in cases like this leaves relations as they were before the coup.

PRESIDENT-ELECT MONGE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS

PA270133 [Editorial Report] San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1639 GMT on 26 March broadcasts a 40-minute speech which Costa Rican President-elect Luis Alberto Monge delivers from his house and in the presence of several of the new government's designated officials. On this occasion Monge announces the names of the newly appointed deputy ministers and heads of autonomous institutions.

Monge begins his speech by reiterating the four historic commitments he will undertake during his period in office: a commitment to production, for the fight against poverty cannot succeed without a reactivation of productivity; a commitment to social justice, characterized by a fight against poverty and solidarity with the poorest Costa Rican sectors; a commitment to the ethical and moral values in the exercise of public duties, for no plan can succeed without honesty and sincerity on the part of public officials; and finally, a commitment to democracy.

Monge states: "Every single official, from those in the highest posts to those in the most modest ones in the various strata of the public administration must fight to preserve the Costa Rican people's freedom and peace. They must fight every single day to preserve our democratic institutional system from the current threats against it. Some of these threats come from within, in an effort to take advantage of the social and economic crisis we are experiencing. Others come from abroad, as a byproduct of or through the contagion of the turbulence and agitation currently lashing at the fraternal Central American peoples. It is our historic responsibility, that of all Costa Ricans -- those of us who will be in the government as well as Costa Ricans in all economic, social and political sectors -- to show that democracy can resolve the production problems and can successfully handle the problems resulting from misery."

Monge adds: "Only on the basis of a broad and solid national consensus around the four commitments mentioned earlier will we be able to preserve our democracy, our freedom and our peace."

After appealing in this regard to all Costa Ricans, Monge proceeds to announce the names of the newly appointed officials. Following is a list of the deputy ministers:

Public security	Leonel Villalobos
Health	Dr Luis Bonilla Salas
Culture	Ines Trejos de Montero
Foreign affairs	(Cesar Peter Severs)
Presidency	Manuel Carballo Quintana
Education	Ovidio Soto Blanco
Industries, energy and mines	Numa Estrada Zuniga
Justice	Jose Enrique Rojas Franco
Public works and transportation	Hernan Azofeifa Viquez

Agriculture	Alvaro Cordero Rojas
Economy	(Odalier Villalobos Gonzalez)
Labor	Jose Calvo Madrigal

Monge also announces the appointment of Dr Hugo Alfonso Munoz Quesada as attorney general and (Antonio Tack Gavilan) as special adviser to the education minister.

Further on, he explains that he has also appointed four advisers who will help him at the presidential level. These include (Raul Vega), economic adviser; Rodolfo Silva, adviser in the area of financing and international economic negotiations; newsman (Armando Vargas), adviser in the field of communications and public opinion; and Dr Mario Carvajal Herrera, adviser for the special program for the development of cooperatives.

According to Monge, these four advisers will join the government team and will be close to and will advise the government council.

The president-elect then lists those chosen to head the various autonomous institutions. They include:

Costa Rican Social Security Institute	Dr Guido Miranda
Costa Rican Electricity Institute	Teofilo de la Torre
National Apprenticeship Institute	Danilo Jimenez Vega
Institute of Lands and Settlement	Jose Manuel Salazar Navarrete
National Production Council	Rodolfo Solano Orfila
Costa Rican Tourism Institute	Manuel Emilio Montero
Municipal Development and Advice Institute	Luis Antonio Monge Roman
Port Administration board for the Economic Development of the Atlantic Coast	(Juan Rafael Barrientos Jermette)
National Institute of Housing and City Planning	Clara [surname indistinct]
National Aqueduct and Sewer Service	Dr Miguel Angel Chavarria
Joint Institute for Social Aid	Dr (German Volio Hernandez)
National Insurance Institute	(Eddy Alvarez Gonzalez)
Costa Rican Pacific Ports Institute	Rodrigo Arauz Bonilla

Monge also announces the apointment of (Signe Brautigan Jimenez), who will work in the civil service area.

Finally, the president-elect makes a number of recommendations for future appointments and he suggests these individuals to head the following institutions:

Central Bank	Dr Carlos Manuel Castillo
Costa Rican Oil Refinery (FECOSA)	Dr (Roberto Dobles Mora)
Development Corporation, Inc	(Guillermo Lara Bustamante)
	Juan Bonilla Ayub

Monge then says that he plans to announce other appointments on some future date. After thanking his listeners, the president-elect concludes his speech at 1719 GMT.

EL SALVADOR

NATION HOLDS ELECTION; PDC, ARENA VIE FOR LEAD

Early Victory Claims

PA290850 Paris AFP in Spanish 0807 GMT 29 Mar 82

[By Gilberto Lopes, special AFP correspondent]

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Both of the main Salvadoran parties have claimed victory a few hours after the polling places closed, but their leaders acknowledge that neither will have an absolute majority in the upcoming 60-member constituent assembly. Retired Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, Leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), took the initiative and proposed the immediate formation of a government of national unity with the other parties, to exclude the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which is currently in power.

D'Aubuisson's proposal was answered a few hours afterward by Julio Rey Prendes, the main PDC candidate, who went to the hotel where foreign correspondents are lodged to hold an impromptu news conference. Still wearing his green campaign shirt -- green is the PDC color -- Rey Prendes reiterated that his party will win by a comfortable margin, but will not have an absolute majority in the upcoming constituent assembly.

"We are certain of 26 deputies," he said, "but the number could climb to 29." Meanwhile, his rival, Major d'Aubuisson, indicated that ARENA will win 42 percent of the votes, but did not say how many representatives it would have in the assembly.

This impasse regarding the votes that each party claims to have won could lead to the confusing situation that Jorge Bustamante, president of the Central Elections Council, tried to prevent by calling on the parties to stick to the official data and refrain from issuing their own figures.

D'Aubuisson said that his group, allied with the National Conciliation Party (PCN), another rightist party that won third place in the voting, would have 65 percent of the votes, which is more than enough to form a stable government.

Rey Prendes also acknowledged the need for the PDC to seek allies if it wants to remain in power. He admitted that contacts had been made with other groups during the electoral campaign, but declined to give details. The PDC is not only thinking of a possible alliance with the Democratic Action Party, the fourth and last party to be represented in the assembly, but also expects to attract some deputies from the PCN, Rey Prendes said.

"The PCN is a populist party that has no ideological unity," he said. "It will be necessary to carefully observe which of its deputies will be sent to the assembly in the end."

The United States has not concealed its desire to keep the PDC in power, which would permit a continuation of its policy toward El Salvador and the preservation of the international alliances that currently support the government junta, which also has members from the armed forces. Rey Prendes hinted at the importance of this ace, which will undoubtedly be played by his party when the time comes to form a new government alliance.

D'Aubuisson Urges Coalition

NC290655 Paris AFP in English 0643 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Hardline conservative leader Major Roberto d'Aubuisson has urged Salvador's two rightwing parties to form a "United National Government" if they emerge victorious from yesterday's elections. Major d'Aubuisson promised a "legal amnesty" for guerrillas if the right came to power.

Although first results gave the Christian Democrat Party of President Jose Napoleon Duarte an overall lead, Major d'Aubuisson claimed victory for his Republican National Alliance (ARENA) in five out of 14 departments. ARENA was in second place behind the Christian Democrats in the capital, he added.

Major d'Aubuisson, quoting first estimates, said ARENA had obtained 42 percent of votes and the other rightwing party of National Conciliation (PCN) had scored 23 percent. The guerrilla Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front had suffered "a defeat" because it had failed in its attempt to stop the election from taking place. The greatest winner in the election was the Salvadoran people itself, the major said.

Major d'Aubuisson said the election in Salvador was an "example for the world" and signalled the "end of the communist offensive of (Cuban Leader Fidel) Castro, of terrorism and of the Soviet Union". He said that in the event of rightwing victory, he would propose a "proper political" solution to the Salvadoran crisis. There would be no negotiation with the guerrillas but a "legal amnesty" would be offered, he said, without specifying how the amnesty would operate.

PDC Early Lead

PA290719 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0658 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Mar (EFE) -- The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) leads in the preliminary vote count, according to information from the Central Elections Council after counting 20 voting booths throughout the country. The council announced the results of these first booths, totalling 6,625 votes, of which 40.3 percent belong to the PDC, followed by the Nationalist Republic Alliance (ARENA) with 25.4 percent, and the National Conciliation party (PCN) with 21.4 percent.

Far behind the first three, follow the Democratic Action Party (PAD), with 8.1 percent, the Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS) with 3.1 percent and the Popular Orientation Party (POP) with 1.4 percnet.

The 6,625 votes counted were divided as follows: PDC, 2,674; ARENA, 1,664; PCN, 1,420; PAD, 540; PPS, 210 and POP, 97.

Early Returns Cited

PA290629 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0616 GMT 29 Mar 82

[By Harvey Morris]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 29 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Salvadoran citizens ignored bomb explosions and bullets to vote yesterday in an election to establish a constituent assembly, but the preliminary results released last night did not permit prediction of a clear winner.

Although the preliminary results announced late last night represent only 1 percent of the votes cast, the initial trend seemed to indicate a slight advantage for the Christian Democratic Party of President Jose Napoleon Duarte over the most rightist of his rivals, the Nationalist Republican Alliance. At that point, the National Conciliation Party was leading among the other four rightist parties.

More on Early Trends

PA291044 [Editorial Report] San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish at 1015 GMT on 29 March carries a live report from the Central Elections Council reporting the balloting totals as of 1000 GMT. The totals are: ARENA 23,117; AD 7,911; PCN 13,987; PDC 33,635; POP 981; and PPS 2,759.

Early Elections Council Release

PA290828 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0752 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Statement by Licenciado A (Acuna), alternate member of the Central Elections Council from the President Theater, headquarters of the council -- live]

[Excerpt] The total for the entire country:

Nationalist Republican Alliance	9,234
Democratic Action Party	3,595

National Conciliation Party	5,453
Christian Democratic Party	14,173
Popular Orientation Party	318
Salvadoran Popular Party	1,220
Valid votes	33,983
Null	3,091
Abstentions	1,006
Impugned	74
Lost	65
General Total	54,047

Duarte, Church Comments

PA290037 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2359 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- By midafternoon today there were still long lines of voters at the polls in San Salvador while disturbances had decreased considerably in the northern outskirs of the capital, where they had been most intense.

Napoleon Duarte, president of the government junta, said today after he voted that the Salvadoran elections constitute a stop sign to violence and the beginning of the country's democratization. Duarte voted at 1155 (1755 GMT) at the 5 November governemnt school in the poor district of Lourdes, although he lives in the San Benito residential district. The president, who was accompanied by his wife Ines Duran, voted at polling place No 304.

Duarte affirmed that there is a climate of complete freedom and that no one went to the polls under pressure. "In the face of those who obstinately insist on imposing a totalitarian system with arms and have martyrized the people to make them afraid to vote, here is the reply of the Salvadoran people who have turned out en masse to vote, disregarding any danger," the junta president added.

Replying to questions by foreign correspondents, Duarte praised "the thoughtful act of the Salvadoran people to turn out to vote to say no to death, violence and war." Duarte's wife said that today's elections are the starting point for the pacification of El Salvador.

The chief of state refused to make any statements concerning his government program, should he win the elections. He only said that today he would restrict himself to encouraging the election process. He also refused to guess who might win the elections.

The Catholic Church was skeptical today that this Sunday's elections could solve the problems of El Salvador, according to a homily drafted with concensus of the Episcopal Conference, which was read at the cathedral today by Father Roberto Amilcar Torruella. Father Torruella said that it is "not by killing guerrillas that terrorism and the civil war will be ended. It is by attacking the causes, by doing justice, that we will obtain peace.

Referring to the leaders of the political parties who participated in the elections, Father Torruella said that during the election campaign the speakers almost never mentioned social injustice.

According to the homily "the elections will be decisive if they truly reflect the people's will. Therefore, it is the moral obligation of every Salvadoran to defend the prestige of the elections as long as no evidence can be brought against them," the homily added.

According to Torruella, the simple suspicion of fraud cannot be sufficient, or much less can partisan interests. He said: "The common welfare and the peace of the fatherland are at stake."

In Havana the Salvadoran elections were treated as a "simple farce" while the rebel actions were stressed. The Cuban press also emphasized the wave of demonstrations against the Salvadoran elections in different countries, with special emphasis on Washington where "approximately 80,000 persons demonstrated."

Voters' Conduct Praised

PA290335 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0246 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Report from Jorge Bustamante, president of the Central Elections Council of El Salvador in San Salvador on 28 March; broadcast in progress -- recorded]

[Text] ...The distribution of material, the voting and the elections returns have been a great success. Regarding the first point, that is, the distribution of ballot boxes, the ballots and the necessary material and equipment, it was done under normal circumstances and according to plans and with the valuable assistance of the Armed Forces of El Salvador.

As a result, it was possible to begin the balloting in most municipalities on schedule, at 0700. In some municipalities, like Gotera which has been the victim of harassment operations, voting began at 0900 today. There, as in other strife-torn areas, the people went to vote respectfully and in an orderly fashion, thus showing a high civic spirit. It must also be noted that the contending political parties have made a valuable contribution to make this memorable civic event one without negative incidents.

The presence of crowds in city streets, in faraway municipalities and in large neighborhoods, is without a doubt the clearest evidence that the people want to solve all the problems we have been facing through peaceful and democratic means. The large number of voters was also a factor that explains the difficulties that arose and that the citizens themselves, with much understanding and a high level of patriotism, helped solve.

The Central Elections Council reiterates by these means that the rectitude that has been demonstrated is in line with the aspirations of liberty of the Salvadoran people and that this is what, as of today, will be the basis of the solid edification of the Salvadoran fatherland. San Salvador, 1900, 28 March 1982.

ARENA Offers 'Amnesty'

PA290559 Paris AFP in Spanish 0532 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (AFP) -- Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, today invited all Salvadoran rightist parties to "form a national union government," to start a dialogue with the other parties. He promised "a legal amnesty" for the guerrillas, in the event that he wins the elections. D'Aubuisson said ARENA, according to the early estimates, had obtained 42 percent of the votes, while the National Conciliation Party, PCN, another rightist group, showed 23 percent.

He said, although the initial results give an advantage to the Christian Democrats, his party continued gaining, according to early reports, in 5 of the 14 departments of the country, running second to the Christian Democratic Party in the capital. Major d'Aubuisson indicated that the FMLN had suffered "a defeat" because they failed to prevent the elections and that the Salvadoran people were the great winners of the elections. He estimated that the Salvadoran vote constituted "an example to the world" and marked "a stop to Castro's communist offensive, terrorism and the Soviet Union."

Concerning the guerrillas, he said that in the case of the victory of a rightist coalition, he will propose an eminently political solution to the Salvadoran crisis. No negotiations will be held with the guerrillas, but we will propose "a legal amnesty," he noted. He did not, however, establish the mechanism of such amnesty.

Finally, he indicated that the United States will respect the will of the Salvadoran people and that the "dialogue" will be also started with the economic sector in general.

MEDIA, ELECTION COUNCIL REPORT ELECTION EVENTS

Duarte News Conference

PA270448 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 24 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] In response to a question from EL MUNDO, Jose Napoleon Duarte, president of the government junta, said in a news conference today that Sunday's elections will not be a farce. He added that "the communists give all kinds of labels to everything that does not give them the opportunity to seize power." He added that "it would not be strange if they describe the people's will as a farce and even though they say they defend the people's interests they do not permit the citizens to express themselves at the polls. They want to impose a government by force. The communists do not believe in democracy." Speaking to national and foreign newsmen at the presidential house, Duarte had said earlier that the extreme leftwing is participating in this process. "It is participating by destroying communications media, burning buses and committing acts of violence. We have had reports of harassment actions in the eastern part of the country and this morning in a neighborhood in Eastern San Salvador. However, they do not have the military capacity to reach power," he said. Asked if the Christian Democratic Party-armed forces pact ended on Sunday, 28 March, or with the installation of the constituent assembly, he said that "the elections were included in this pact and that with the installation of the constituent assembly several options could emerge including the continuation of the junta." "If there is no majority, alliances will emerge. However, this is up to the assembly," he said. Regarding the printing of 3 million ballots, Duarte said this was not for fraudulent purposes and that in any country and during any election a surplus is always printed just in case. He explained that each receiving board will receive its counted ballots and when this number is used up the respective municipal board can hand out more duly signed and counted.

Defense Minister Statement

PA271736 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1312 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Speech by Salvadoran Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The members of the Salvadoran High Command are here. Gen Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, commander in chief of the armed forces and vice president of the revolutionary government junta, is not here, because he is working at this time. I am accompanied by the under secretary of defense and the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff.

Salvadorans: we are here alone before you to give you a brief summary of the armed forces' position on the electoral process. We are here alone and with our heads held high because we are fulfilling our duty. We are here alone because this is how we must always remain with regard to our political attitude, because the Salvadoran Armed Forces do not want to participate in partisan politics. We have decided to speak to the Salvadorans about the electoral process.

No one likes to be deceived; the Salvadorans do not like to be deceived and we are Salvadorans. The success of this electoral process invariably lies in the purity of these elections.

For this reason, the Salvadoran Armed Forces have pledged by their word of honor to fulfill that commitment.

Compatriots: We have told you that we were going to respect this electoral process -- as a proof of this to the Salvadorans and the world we, the members of the armed institution, have decided to give up our right to vote. We will refrain from voting so that there will be no doubt about our honest participation in the electoral process.

The elections will be honest and our participation will be neutral. We will not vote. This is an official and in-depth attitude. It is real. We have also said, and we reiterate that when you Salvadorans are alone with your conscience at the moment when you cast your vote, you should remember that you have not been subject to, nor should you be, any kind of pressure to force you to vote for any specific party, because the Salvadoran Armed Forces have not had nor do they now have any commitment to any particular party.

On Sunday, all who have the right to vote should have enough courage to exercise that right. Men, women and young people should be able to say in the future that, despite the danger and the threats, they had the courage to vote.

With full satisfaction we wish to tell you, our fellow countrymen, that this path has not been easy. It has cost us a great deal, but we are keeping our promises. We ask God to guide all Salvadorans, so that he may give us the conviction to use our right correctly. We ask that you Salvadorans have sufficient courage and that you show it by voting.

International Observers

PA280507 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 Mar 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Officials from several countries of the world, representatives from top level organizations, European and Latin American labor unions, the European Parliament and other organizations, are arriving in El Salvador to act as observers in the 28 March elections.

The countries that have confirmed that they are sending delegations are Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, the United Kingdom, Guatemala, China [not further identified], Egypt, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Argentina, Israel, Panama, Ecuador, Chile, the United States, Honduras, Morocco, Venezuela and others.

Delegates from the following organizations have also confirmed their arrival: the OAS, the Supreme Electoral Court of Ecuador, the National Election Jury of Peru, the National Civil Registry Office of Colombia, and the Supreme Electoral Court of Costa Rica. Delegates will also come from labor unions of Latin America, Europe and the United States.

Start of Voting Announced

PA281351 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] This is the voice of the Central Elections Council [CCE] which, through the radio and television, is giving the following report:

We want to note that voting has begun massively throughout the country. The people are going to the polls and there have been no incidents to deplore. We want to thank the country's radio stations and the Salvadoran television for their cooperation with the CCE which will report to the people on the election that started in the country at 0600. We are asking all radio stations to be watching for the reports that we will be issuing every 30 minutes, through the CCE voice. Thanks for your attention and we urge you to be on the watch every 30 minutes for the CCE voice.

Reporting Restrictions Decried

PA272205 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1157 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Station announcement]

[Text] Radio Cadena Sonora wishes to beg its listeners to understand the reasons that will not permit us to give the service which as a communication media, we are committed to offering our listeners and the public in general. Therefore, we will be transmitting only general information to be released by the office of the Central Electoral Council, located, according to reports, at the Presidente Theater in this capital.

The Cadena Sonora news department, however, wishes to clearly explain that it is not by its own decision that it will not be able to offer detailed information, in chronological order, of tomorrow's activities concerning the national constituent assembly elections, because we have been instructed to integrate a national radio network as of 0600 hours. This, we repeat, deprives the news department of this station from fulfilling its sacred duty to offer a true and correct account to its listeners in El Salvador and Central America.

Through this brief communique, we also wish to express the disagreement of our entire news department with not being allowed to fulfill the sacred duty to inform the national and Central American audience about such important event, which at present has focused world attention to our small country and which should be reported as amply and completely as possible.

Perhaps the national network will be able to handle it; Cadena Sonora, however, will not be able to deploy its news personnel as readily as required, since the station is being restricted to the national radio network which seriously impairs our desire to offer a true and complete account of the events, as our news department has always done.

Council Explains Restrictions

PA280248 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Message to the Salvadoran people from Dr Ricardo Molina Aguilar and Rene Segovia, full members of the Central Electoral Council, -- live]

[Text] Since several members of the media announced today that they were going to report on the results of tomorrow's elections, I would like to remind them that the Central Electoral Council [CCE] has issued a regulation with which they have to comply so as not to confuse other results with those the CCE is going to announce officially. Therefore, I would like to read this regulation and remind everyone that they are dutybound to comply strictly with the CCE's instructions. The regulation says:

The Central Electoral Council believes that, to contribute effectively to the normal development of the electoral process that will end on 28 March, it is advisable and opportune to establish measures to try to avoid confusion in the field of news reporting and to ensure that these reports are based on facts. Therefore, the CCE has established the following regulations for the private and state-owned media.

State-Owned Media

Radio El Salvador and state-owned television Channels 8 and 10 will be placed at the disposal of the CCE beginning at 0630 on 28 March. They will broadcast official information until the CCE announces the definitive results of the 28 March elections. These state-owned media will remain under CCE jurisdiction for as long as the council deems it necessary, even after the official results of the elections are announced, without detriment to the regular cultural and recreational programming of these stations.

2. [number as heard] The state-owned media will broadcast on 28 March and subsequent days according to their usual schedule, but subject to the time blocks required by the CCE. The CCE president will determine how long and how frequent these blocks will be, beginning at 0630 on 28 March. It should be understood that no reports on the electoral process may be broadcast at times other than those determined by the voice of the CCE.

3. The transmitting equipment of the state-owned media will be set up at the CCE headquarters, where the CCE reports will originate. Radio El Salvador and Channels 8 and 10 will designate a broadcast director or a station representative who will be responsible for carrying out the CCE president's orders regarding the initiation, duration and content of each time block from 0630 hours on 28 March until the emergency period is over.

4. The exclusive CCE announcers will be at the disposal of the president of the CCE and the broadcast directors from Radio El Salvador and Channels 8 and 10, respectively, in an attempt to avoid confusion regarding broadcast instructions.

5. At no time will announcers or persons who do not belong to the voice of the CCE panel of announcers be allowed to use the microphones or television cameras. Even in an extremely urgent situation this can only be authorized by the CCE president.

6. Any interview, statement, charge, commentary or report that a private citizen, political party or government official wishes to air over the voice of the CCE will have to be approved by the CCE president himself.

7. Any topic related to broadcasts over state-owned radio and television between 0830 [as heard] on 28 March until the voice of the CCE ends its transmission that is not contained in this regulation should be resolved by the CCE president with the cooperation of any state organization or organizations that he considers necessary.

Private Radio and Television Stations

1. Private radio and television stations will broadcast reports on the elections by hooking up directly to the voice of the CCE via the lines to their studios. In this regard, beginning at 0830 hours [as heard] on 28 March the CCE will periodically invite them to join a network with the voice of the CCE.

2. The private radio and television stations will not be allowed to broadcast station-originated programs on politically-related topics or on the elections or its results even if these transmissions are meant for use abroad, such as reports via teletype or other similar means.

3. Whenever the CCE considers it advisable, all the private radio and television stations will join the voice of the CCE to broadcast whatever the CCE considers of interest to the nation from the time the voting begins until the final official results of the elections are announced.

4. The radio and television stations will be able to schedule their programs freely on 28 March.

5. The official broadcast of the voice of the CCE will be continuous from 0630 on 28 March until the official results of the voting are announced.

6. The CCE thanks the media for their understanding and cooperation in broadcasting the reports on the progress of the elections. The voice of the CCE is the only source that the Salvadoran people should rely on, with the certainty that the CCE will guarantee the citizens' votes.

7. The definitive figures will be those on the election certificates. Therefore any other information on returns, even if they are announced by the voice of the CCE, should be considered preliminary reports. This is the regulation that the communications media must obey on 28 March 1982. Thank you and good night.

Guerrilla Attacks in Capital

PA270442 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0410 GMT 27 Mar 82

[By Harvey Morris]

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The stampede caused by the shooting of automatic weapons resounded early tonight in the streets of this city, while sources of the security forces reported on an apparently coordinated series of dynamite attacks in different parts of San Salvador. At least seven bombs exploded in a 3-km downtown area within a 1-hour period. There were no immediate reports of casualties or property losses.

The shooting was heard a few blocks from the downtown part of the capital and, according to witnesses, it broke out with an attack by the guerrillas against the National Guard headquarters and the Central Market. The dynamite attacks and shooting that broke out as the businessmen were shutting their doors at the close of business are part of the campaign by the leftwing insurgents to prevent Sunday's constituent elections here.

The targets of the bomb attacks were the National Police General Headquarters and the waterworks office. This was the most important series of attacks launched this week after the guerrillas warned about their intention to transfer their campaign in harassment to the capital. In another act of violence, the guerrillas attacked the government troops guarding a temporary bridge which connects the eastern region of El Salvador with the rest of the country. Thus far there have been no reports of victims and Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia said that the clash which took place 100 km from here was not important.

Presidential Palace Attacked

PA271712 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1605 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Guerrilla groups fired at the presidential house at dawn today and a bomb went off at a school next to it in downtown San Salvador. The rebels exchanged fire for almost half an hour with security agents at the government house and then withdrew.

Sources at the presidential palace told ACAN-EFE that there were no casualties among the security agents and that it is not known if there were any among the attackers.

Forty ballot boxes for the elections to be held tomorrow, in which six parties -- all rightist -- will vie for 60 benches in the constituent assembly, were supposed to be placed in the school near the government palace where the bomb went off. The guerrillas have redoubled their attacks in San Salvador in the last few days in an apparent bid to block the elections or to make a show of force before hundreds of observers and foreign newsmen who are arriving in the country.

Bus Services Suspended

PA280306 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 82 pp 4, 39

[Excerpt] Bus service to the country's east, north and northeast areas has been suspended as of today. This means that the San Miguel, La Union, Usulutan, Morazan, San Vicente and Chalatenango routes have suspended service which will be renewed on 1 April, according to the owners.

The 485 buses that daily provide service beginning of 0430 did not go to their terminals yesterday. Some buses of Route 112, between San Salvador and Sensuntepeque, worked for a few hours only. Microbuses on Route 113 to Cojutepeque also operated for only a few hours. The Route 113 terminal is near Zurita plaza.

Some bus owners were asked about the lockout they will have for either 3 or 5 days, depending on circumstances, and they noted that "there is no guarantee of safety for buses, drivers or conductors, and therefore they would rather suspend services." Some said that subversive elements have threatened to destroy their buses and kill the drivers if they are found on the highways.

Low Voter Turnout Reported

PA281445 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1418 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- There was intense shooting today in the city of Apopa, 12 km north of San Salvador, where the guerrillas took the ballot boxes and "shot them in a ceremony mocking the elections in the country.

The streets of San Salvador are almost empty, and there are no long lines at the polls. In some cities in the interior of the country, the voting sites have not been opened yet, and representatives of the Central Elections Board are waiting orders and protection by the army.

There was a 5-hour clash this morning between the army and guerrillas in the northern areas of San Salvador and in the outlying district neighborhoods of Mejicanos, Zacamil, Cuscatancingo, and Ayutuxtepeque. There was also intense shooting in San Jacinto, a neighborhood south of San Salvador.

There are no reports on the number of victims; troops, guerrillas or civilians. However, ambulances are increasingly active and some rescue helicopters are overflying the city. Voting places opened more than an hour ago, but as yet very few people have turned up to vote.

Guerrilla action is increasing, especially in the eastern departments of Morazan and Usulutan, where the rebels have towns practically surrounded.

More on Turnout

PA281516 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1454 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 28 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Voting started here today amid a hail of machinegun and mortar fire. Meanwhile security forces were battling guerrillas who are intent on disrupting the elections for a constituent assembly.

National guardsmen were controlling the streetcorners in the almost deserted capital of El Salvador, while long lines of voters were forming in front of the polls. Few people, however, ventured out in the streets, except to vote.

Rebel Attacks Repelled

PA281604 Paris AFP in Spanish 1543 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (AFP) -- There were intense simultaneous guerrilla attacks early this morning in different parts of the Salvadoran capital, especially against military detachments guarding the voting places. The guerrilla attacks started at 0500, and lasted about 2 hours in the outskirts of the city, in the districts of Lourdes, Mejicanos, Apopa, Cuscatancingo, Ayutuxtepeque, San Ramon, and San Antonio Abad, as well as on the main North Highway, Roosevent Avenue, Gabriela Mistral Street and the Anatepec neighborhood.

According to official sources, the attacks were repelled after 2 hours. These sources claim that now the city is calm and that voting is proceeding as scheduled.

Electoral Council on Problems

PA281732 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Central Electoral Council report]

[Text] Fellow Citizens: Once again, the voice of the Central Electoral Council, the only authorized voice, to report that voting is taking place as expected. There are difficulties in certain voting places, but this had been foreseen. There have been both fifth columnism and sabotage but, all the same, the citizens are voting freely.

Courage, fellow citizens. I will be with you again in another 30 minutes. At this time (Ascunaga Sanchez) and Mr (Ricardo Valdez), official voice of the Central Electoral Council, are at the Presidente Theater. [sentence as heard]

Onward, people. Go and vote. Overcome the difficulties and vote at any cost. I will address you in another 30 minutes. This is an appeal by phone from the Central Electoral Council.

Salvadoran people, congratulations for the success of the elections. Onward, people!

Heavy Turnout Announced

PA282039 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1943 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Today's elections in El Salvador are characterized by a large turnout at the polls. At the same time, disturbances, gunbattles and bombings are on the increase in the capital and several departments. The guerrillas are constantly carrying out harassment operations against the armed forces and voters in San Salvador's heavily populated northern outskirts.

The disturbances are particularly noticeable in Zacamil, Mejicanos, Cuscatancingo and Escandia outskirts but the situation is more normal in the metropolitan area. Several shootouts took place and three leftist propaganda bombs exploded early in the afternoon in some avenues in downtown San Salvador.

Voting is proceeding normally in the rest of the capital. Long lines of voters -- some of which are as much as 500 meters long -- have been standing for hours in front of polling places under the hot tropical sun.

Voting Time Not Extended

PA290054 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2344 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Message to the people from Jorge Bustamante, president of the Central Elections Council of El Salvador; on 28 March -- live or recorded]

[Text] Salvadorans, your attention please. This is a last-minute report. Since the political parties did not sign the request that the Central Elections Council had planned to present to the honorable revolutionary junta of the government to extend the elections period a little, the revolutionary junta of the government and the Central Elections Council have decided to strictly abide by the temporary elections law and the elections will be closed, as the law establishes, at 1800 today.

I repeat: In view that the political parties did not sign the request that the Central Elections Council was promoting with the revolutionary junta of the government, the elections will be closed just as the temporary elections law establishes, at 1800 today.

Reports from around the country are very encouraging. There has been massive voting. Much more than had been expected considering the situation in the country. For this reason the Central Elections Council believes that the Salvadoran people have behaved the way the moment demanded, with the courage and heroism that is characteristic of them.

The sole task of holding elections was a giant task. The Salvadoran people today have given the lie to those who were opposed to the elections solution by going to the polls en masse.

This morning the people took to the streets despite the terrorist actions that occurred in various parts of the country. The people have behaved in an excellent manner and all observers agree that the behavior of the people has been a lesson for the world, especially for those who have recently held elections.

The people have waited in lines for long hours to have the opportunity to vote. While it is true that some citizens will not have the satisfaction of voting, this is a minority. I have personally visited voting centers in the city and only a minority is still waiting in line to vote. Therefore, we think that until now, the elections process has been a big success for the Salvadoran people. As we receive more reliable and truthful reports, we will broadcast them via radio and television.

I repeat: since the political parties did not sign the request that the Central Elections Council was promoting to extend the voting hours, the revolutionary junta of the government has decided to strictly abide by the law. Therefore, voting will conclude at 1800 today in the cities where there is electricity. Thank you very much. We will again give you reliable and truthful reports. The only reliable and truthful reports are those that come from the voice of the Central Elections Council.

Citizens, once the voting concludes, we recommend that you go quietly to your homes. You have made an examplary and marvelous effort. We congratulate all the Salvadoran citizens for the civic example you have given the world this memorable 28 March 1982. Go quietly home. Enjoy your favorite radio and television programs. We will be informing you periodically as we have been doing throughout the day. Thank you for your attention. Good night. Until we meet again.

Elections Council on Ballots

PA282228 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2149 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Message to the public from the Central Elections Council delivered by council member Rene Segovia -- live]

[Text] In an effort to fulfill its promise to keep the Salvadoran people informed, the council at this moment calls on all citizens to maintain their patriotic enthusiasm to defend our country's sovereignty through the vote and not to be intimidated by the false reports and rumors that are circulating in the streets. One such rumor is that there are no more ballots at the polls and that it is not possible to vote. I wish to make it clear to the Salvadoran people, that it has been calculated and confirmed that each polling place has sufficient supplies to permit all Salvadorans to vote.

For this reason, I wish to give you a brief illustration. One ballot box has 500 ballots. A citizen takes 2 minutes to vote. Therefore, in 1 hour, 30 citizens can vote and in 11 hours of voting, we will have used 330 ballots.

Salvadoran people, do not be deceived by the rumor that there are no ballots at the polling places; that they ran out at 1000, that there is no paper. You must understand that in this situation, all Salvadorans have to make a patriotic effort, which we have already made. Let's not waste it because of false information.

Therefore, I again call on all citizens, on all Salvadorans who are competent and aware that it is necessary to preserve democracy, not to be deceived by the rumor that there are no ballots at the polls.

So far, we have received encouraging reports from all over the republic to the effect that the voting has already concluded in many towns, because all the people came out to express their desire to defend democracy by voting.

Therefore, Salvadoran people, as a member of the Central Elections Council who is grateful for this support that the Salvadoran people have given to this democratic process, I wish to ask you to make the final effort. There is still time to vote. Go out to vote. I will recommend to you some areas from which we have received information that the voting has slackened; Monserrat, Villa Delgado, San Antonio Abad. There are still places, compatriots, to which you can go, with patriotic fervor, to vote more easily. Thank you very much, Salvadoran people.

Ballots Resupply

PA282318 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2259 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Communique from the Central Elections Council; issued in San Salvador on 28 March 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Central Elections Council informs the people that it is providing enough ballots to all the polling places throughout the country due to the massive turnout of voters. The ballots are being provided according to the requirements of the election needs so that all citizens may exercise their right to vote. It has been noted in the various voting centers in the capital and in the interior of the country that there are many voters. So far there has been no incident creating any obstacle to the election process.

Rules on Vote Count

PA290414 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0351 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Message to Salvadoran political parties by Jorge Bustamante, president of the Central Elections Council; issued in San Salvador on 28 March -- live or recorded]

[Text] Your attention please, contending political parties: The Central Elections Council [CCE], aware of the delicate task of counting the election returns taking place right now, is asking the political parties not to publicly announce results since the counts are taking place right now and so far there is no definite report. The Salvadoran people are reminded that the total and definitive data will be that provided by this council when the election vote count is completed according to the law. Therefore, we are reiterating what was already said, that the parties must not publicly report definitive elections results. Thank you very much. In a few minutes we will be with the Salvadoran people again.

GUERRILLAS DISRUPT VOTING IN THREE DEPARTMENTS

PA290354 Panama City ACAN in Spanich 0305 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Guerrilla action prevented the holding of elections in several places of Usulutan, Morazan and Chalatenango Departments. In Usulutan Department almost 120,000 persons were unable to vote, including in the departmental capital.

The number of citizens unable to vote in Morazan and Chalatenango Departments as a result of insurgent harassment was not specified. However, it is known that the number of towns where polling places were not installed was higher than in Usulutan.

Guerrilla action was intense in northern outskirts of San Salvador, but the elections were held. The Salvadoran people went to the polling places which were operating and formed long lines under the tropical sun.

Election Day Casualties

PA290104 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2352 GMT 28 Mar 82

[By Harvey Morris]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 28 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- At least 30 people were killed today in clashes between government troops and leftist guerrillas who attempted to prevent the constituent assembly elections in El Salvador, security forces said. Approximately 20 died in San Salvador, where thousands of persons stood in lines for many hours to vote in spite of the armed clashes and bombing attacks which shook the city during the morning.

The most serious incident took place in the suburb of San Antonio Abad, where 12 insurgents died after taking over by force a reception center for votes. Two soldiers were also killed in the operation to evict the guerrillas. In San Vicente, 60 km from here, four guerrillas and two soldiers died while another five rebels were killed in Zacatecoluca.

The security forces said that the provisional figure of 30 dead could increase because reports from other parts of the country have not yet reached the capital and heavy fighting continues in Usulutan, in the east. However, the armed incidents did not manage to decrease the turnout of voters at the polls, which a U.S. observer, Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum described as "incredible."

Journalists Wounded

PA282312 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2234 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 28 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Two Latin American journalists were wounded today, one of them seriously, while covering the constituent assembly elections in El Salvador, now in a state of civil war. The wounded Chilean photographer was identified as 47-year-old Carlos Ruz. Seriously wounded, his condition was described as delicate by sources at the hospital where he was admitted.

The Uruguayan journalist, still not identified, was wounded in an arm while covering clashes with guerrillas in the suburbs of the capital. However, his would is not serious, said his colleagues.

French Photographer Wounded

PA280405 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0343 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 27 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- A French photographer working for a U.S. magazine was slightly wounded today when the car in which he was traveling was riddled with bullets in eastern El Salvador, according to his colleagues. Michel Setboun, from TIME magazine, received a bullet wound in the side but he managed to walk to a hospital. It is believed that he will be released tonight.

The shooting took place near San Vicente, 60 km from San Salvador. Setboun was traveling with other photographers who are covering the civil war when they were apparently caught in the crossfire of guerrillas who were attacking a heavily guarded military tanker truck convoy, informed sources said.

RIGHTIST GROUP DENIES THREATS AGAINST NEWSMEN

PA280454 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Mar 82 pp 2, 38

[Text] A communique from the self-styled "Gen Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Commando Unit" denies that this group threatened national and foreign newsmen, and says that this is a maneuver by the communists themselves, who in reality are the ones who want to harass newsmen and foreign correspondents.

Referring to the Netherlands newsmen who were killed during a clash in near Santa Rita, Chalatenango Department, the so-called commando unit says, among other things, in its communique: "We are sorry that after these gentlemen served them, the communists decided to use their murder, which they themselves planned, to continue their prolonged war. At any rate, they have always resorted to similar actions at the last moment, as they did with the FDR leaders in 1980, to later accuse the rightwing."

RADIO VENCEREMOS ON ELECTION-RELATED EVENTS

Traffic Disruption

PA270431 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] We now will read a bulletin issued by the press office of our General Command regarding the suspension, beginning today, 26 March, of traffic by vehicles in the capital, roads and cities of the country. This affects all transport vehicles.

Bulletin from the press office of the General Command of the FMLN:

The FMLN General Command calls on all owners of transport vehicles of all urban and interdepartmental routes, including taxis, microbuses, trucks and others, to obey the following instructions:

1. Completely suspend as of today, 26 March, the operation of your vehicles in the capital as well as roads and cities of the country.
2. Maintain this suspension for an indefinite period of time until the FMLN lifts this order.
3. Considering that in this historic moment, the interests of the struggle of the people are more important than any other interest, the FMLN cautions those who do not obey this order that we will sabotage any type of transport vehicle for an indefinite length of time.

In connection with this, all military units of the FMLN throughout the country are hereby ordered to make this order effective by sabotaging any vehicle that does not follow the instructions given in this bulletin.

United to fight until final victory. Revolution or death. We will win. [Signed] Press office of the FMLN

Highway Traffic Stopped

PA272028 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Summary] The FMLN General Command has issued a bulletin asking the transportation sector not to use the highways, as follows:

[Begin relay] The FMLN General Command informs the people that in view of important military actions throughout the country it has ordered a suspension of all vehicular traffice on the country's roads. We do so to avoid innocent victims.

In case of extreme need, riders of vehicles belonging to the Red Cross, the Green Cross and the national and foreign press must carry one or two white flags, drive at 30 km an hour, immediately obey orders to stop from our forces, avoid traveling at night under any circumstances and dismount from their vehicles and show their identification to our forces upon request. Our forces will guarantee security to those requiring it. [end recording]

Actions Summarized

PA272349 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1800 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Following is a general report of the activities carried out by the people of El Salvador:

In Morazan Department, our forces have taken control of Yoloaquin, only 16 km from San Francisco Gotera, an important departmental capital. The enemy has not been able to recapture this strategic town.

Also in Morazan at this very moment, 1330 hours, the FMLN forces maintain control of the strategic heights of El Tigre and El Coyol hills, near the destroyed bridge over Torola River, where on 24 March, our forces dislodged the enemy forces, took some war prisoners and captured important weapons, including a 90-mm cannon.

At this time, also in Morazan Department, the enemy positions in Osicala continue under siege, while our forces continue to pressure the enemy units in towns north of Morazan. That is the overall situation in the Morazan Department to date.

In Usulutan Department, our forces gradually are surrounding Usulutan. In the port city of Puerto Parada, our units defeated the Usulutan garrison troops. Puerto Parada is a few kilometers south of Usulutan where our forces took more war prisoners and captured important arms.

In San Vicente Department, heavy fighting was reported at Km 68 of the Pan-American Highway as our forces took control of several sections of the highway in that department.

In San Miguel Department, we already reported the 2-hour incursion by FMLN forces who occupied several sectors of San Miguel.

In Santa Ana Department, as reported in this transmission, our forces are building barricades in the heroic Feliciano Ama Western Front. We also reported the blowing up of two important bridges on the highway linking Santa Ana and Guatemala. We also reported the sabotage of buses whose owners chose to disregard the FMLN orders not to operate in the cities or on the highways.

We already reported our forces' ban on transportation in San Salvador, which has practically immobilized that service in the capital. In addition, we have received information that tension is rapidly increasing in the capital, as well as expectation regarding what will happen in the next few hours. All of this is evidence that throughout the country conditions necessary for the dictatorship's plans to carry out its electoral farce do not exist. This has been a summary of the overall situation in the country at this time.

Fighting in Usulutan

PA272357 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] We will now receive reports from Usulutan. Commander Juan Ramon Medrano has informed us at this hour, 0245 GMT, that our forces are maintaining their positions in Usulutan.

Our people are advancing while the enemy retreats. Our people have once more proven their military capacity in Usulutan. We will now listen to a recording made by our mobile unit in Usulutan this afternoon:

[Begin recording] We are reporting from the Radio Venceremos mobile unit in the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front. We will tell you about the combat that occurred in Usulutan since 0500 today. At that time, FMLN forces entered in Usulutan taking positions in the southern part of the city. Throughout the day today, 25 March, our people have been involved in fierce fighting against the enemy in positions in the southern part of Usulutan. The enemy has not been able to make us leave those positions. We also want to report that the enemy used mortar fire against the positions that our people maintain in the [name indistinct] bridge without inflicting a single casualty.

At 1725, our people and their vanguard, the FMLN, continue to maintain their positions in the southern area of Usulutan and the enemy has not dislodged us from them. Later, we will give more information on the combat underway in Usulutan.

During the afternoon, a Mazinger truck and an armored vehicle tried to make us leave our position in the [name indistinct] bridge but their effort was useless. [sentence indistinct] Our people control all the roads leading to Usulutan. We control the road that goes from Usulutan to the Oro Bridge, the road from Usulutan to Santiago de Maria and the road from Usulutan to (?San Lorenzo). Our positions remain firm and our people, alongside with their revolutionary army, are advancing to [words indistinct] positions. [end recording]

We are listening to a recording of information sent by our mobile unit in Usulutan regarding the FMLN incursion in this important city in the country's east. Here we have more:

[Begin recording] Regarding the battles that [words indistinct] our people and army are carrying out in Usulutan, we can report that fighting became very fierce after 0930 in the [words indistinct] and the southern area in Usulutan. Our combatants also reported that the enemy has little operational capacity and that the enemy troops are showing a low morale. We will report further on the incidents during the takeover of the FMLN in Usulutan. [end recording]

Action Near Santa Ana

PA280001 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] We have received more news from Santa Ana, where another struggle is underway against oppression and imperialism. Here is a report from Santa Ana:

On 25 March, yesterday, another bridge was destroyed on the road linking Santa Ana and Sonsonate, a scant 2 km from Santa Ana.

Here is another report from Santa Ana: Today, Friday, a barricade of vehicles was set up 3 km from Santa Ana on the road to Ahuachapan. A Route 210 bus that runs from Santa Ana to Ahuachapan was set on fire. The operation was carried out at 0630. The enemy then launched a search operation with an attack helicopter and machinegunned the entire area [words indistinct] within 4 km of Santa Ana. The search operation lasted 40 minutes and included heavy machinegunning of the entire area. So far it is not known if there were any civilian casualties, but our forces did not have any problems.

United to struggle until the final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! Commander Miguel Ramirez.

Battles in San Salvador

PA281433 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1414 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Attention! At 1414 GMT we are receiving reports from San Salvador, where important battles are underway. We are fighting in Cuscatancingo, San Antonio Abad, Apopa and other places in the capital. Since early today the helicopters of the dictatorship have been flying over the outskirts of San Salvador and some of them have uselessly strafed our positions. In San Salvador, our army continues to advance. We will win!

Military Airstrip Taken

PA281436 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Attention! We have more news. At this time Commander Jorge Melendez, Jonas, has reported from San Francisco Gotera that the FMLN forces seized the military airstrip there. We repeat: FMLN forces are controlling the military airstrip in San Francisco Gotera, while our forces are advancing, minute by minute, on enemy positions in San Francisco Gotera, overcoming a completely demoralized enemy.

FMLN Controls Cuscatancingo

PA281508 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1451 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Attention! We have now established contact with Cuscatancingo. Let's listen to a report from Cuscatancingo. Go ahead:

[Begin relay] At this time we have total control of the outskirts of Cuscatancingo. Fighting is underway at the garrison, near [name indistinct], El Progreso Street and the road from Mejicanos to Cuscatancingo. We are also fighting on the road from Panama neighborhood to Cuscatancingo. Over. [end relay]

We copied your report on new clashes in the outskirts of San Salvador. We will continue establishing contact with you so that you can give us reports on the situation from the streets of Cuscatancingo. We remind you, companeros, that our next transmission will be carried at 1630 GMT. [words indistinct]

Seize School

PA281616 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1557 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Twelve killed is the toll in a clash that occurred early today when more than 30 guerrillas seized an elementary school in San Antonio Abad in the outskirts of San Salvador. The guerrilla group, which entered the school at dawn, established itself there, trying to prevent voters from going to the polls set up in that building. The identity of those killed is still unknown, but the army was able to dislodge the guerrillas from the school.

Jamming By Ship

PA281716 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1630 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] This is Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, reporting to our people on the (?victorious) battles taking place at this moment throughout the nation's territory. In San Francisco Gotera [passage indistinct] as we reported this morning, our forces are holding their positions on the outskirts of San Salvador. We will give further details on the battles taking place throughout the nation during this broadcast.

We call on the People's Committees: Attention People's Committees in San Salvador: Please give location [informativos] maps to our columns. Let us all join the activities our fighters in San Salvador indicate.

We warn our people that imperialism's radar ship in the Gulf of Fonseca is jamming our broadcasts with music. We urge our people to keep track of Radio Venceremos, as we will be shifting frequency at random. Let us all look for Radio Venceremos on the dial and defeat the imperialist maneuvers.

Fighting in Santa Ana

PA281814 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1630 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] We are being told from Santa Ana that fighting continues in Santa Ana Department on the heroic Feliciano Ama Western Front. On the road to Santa Ana our people are maintaining barricades that are obstructing the enemy's passage. In addition we have been informed that our forces blew up two important bridges on the road from Santa Ana to Guatemala.

Fighting in San Miguel

PA281833 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1630 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Attention, attention! The FMLN entered the city of San Miguel today and heavy fighting has taken place. We are told from San Miguel that in its desperation the dictatorship is attacking our positions with artillery, using 81-mm mortars. Here is another report: (?The central part of the country) [words indistinct] (?and other places) in the east are without power because of the sabotage carried out by our sappers in the eastern part of the country.

We will shortly provide more details on the situation in San Francisco Gotera.

Latest FMLN Activities

PA281943 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1630 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] According to reports received from Usulutan at 1104 [1604 GMT], our combatants maintain their military siege against Usulutan and continue taking over enemy positions there. We are in control of the routes of access to this important city. The enemy cannot advance by land because, as we have already reported, the bridge at Santa Maria, 2 km from Usulutan, has been blown up by our forces, thus preventing the enemy's passage.

Meanwhile, international correspondents are reporting to the world that heavy fighting is taking place throughout the national territory. Central American radio stations are reporting on the fighting that took place in San Miguel, Usulutan and Zacatecoluca. According to international correspondents, heavy fighting also took place in San Vicente at 0500 today.

Fighting, which began at 0400 in Morazan today, is still going on there. As we have already reported, our forces maintain control over the military route and over Km 18 of the road to San Francisco Gotera in the south.

In the north, (Choloaiti) and Meanguera are under FMLN control. In the last few hours, FMLN attacks have also been reported against enemy positions in Joateca, Perquin, Torola and San Fernando.

Attention, here is another report from Morazan: here is more information of our people's new advances in Morazan Department. This report comes from Sociedad.

[Begin relay] Today, 28 March 1982, at 0615, FMLN forces entered Sociedad and attacked [word indistinct] the enemy's positions [words indistinct]. [end relay]

All right, companeros from Sociedad: We have received your report, according to which our forces have been attacking enemy positions in Sociedad since 0615. The siege against enemy positions in Sociedad is still on at 1108.

Apopa Factory Destroyed

PA282008 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1900 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] A few minutes ago we reported the destruction of an armored vehicle by an RPG-2. Now we are receiving another report: The Industrias Sinteticas de Centro America [INSINCA] factory located in Apopa was sabotaged by our revolutionary forces controlling Apopa and the main northern highway. We repeat: FMLN forces destroyed INSINCA in Apopa where they are controlling the main northern highway.

FDR'S UNGO COMMENTS ON FMLN ACTIONS

PA280030 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 Mar 82 p 1, 11

[Text] Yesterday in Managua, Guillermo Ungo said his country's people's army had no special offensive scheduled for the Sunday, 28 March, electoral farce. He added that Sunday would be a day of routine war activities for the rebels.

The president of the Political-Diplomatic Committee of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) abroad stressed that the democratic forces do not want the people to shed unnecessary blood in the military operation such as those that have characterized Salvadoran elections since 1972. However, he reiterated that the war will continue before, during and after the farce.

"Nevertheless, before, during and after the elections, we will continue our efforts to achieve a negotiated political solution," Ungo stressed.

In reference to recent manipulations of the electoral figures by the Salvadoran junta and the U.S. Government, Ungo said that if Sunday's elections take place, they will be held without significance "because nothing will be elected in this process; all they are after is a false legitimization that will not change the true structure wherein power resides in the army's high command.

Ungo sees as a bad omen for a possible willingness by the United States to negotiate the fact that such a position would not be taken until after the "elections," because whether farud or coercion of the voters occurs and whether the Christian Democrats win or lose the majority, the ultraright represented by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) led by D'Aubuisson always wins its share of power."

"Having the right share power makes it difficult for the United States to adopt a negotiating position because the right is one of the three great forces that, together with the more reactionary sectors of the army and the so-called 'hard-line' sectors of the Washington government, have been traditionally opposed to a political solution."

What Does This Mean?

Ungo tried to illustrate what the so-called 28 March elections are going to be like by citing official reports from the junta, saying there are 1.2 million registered voters and by citing recent statements by Mr Hinton, U.S. ambassador to San Salvador. Hinton said the "elections" would be considered a success if, with or without fraud, at least 500,000 voters go to the polls, that is, less than half of the alleged voting population.

We Are More Than a Few Thousand

In response to the U.S. premise that the FDR-FMLN cannot demand at the negotiating table what is has not won at the ballot box, Ungo said: "Not just a few thousand, but hundreds of thousands of us throughout the country disagree with the Christian-Democratic junta and its political positions and we are opposing it as fighters, alongside the fighters, or in support of the fighters.

"Moreover, we are not proposing our own hegemony in government, but rather a pluralism even greater than the one currently existing within the FDR, a pluralism resulting from a negotiated solution that would even include forces not represented within the FDR," he explained.

Asked his opinion regarding the recent murder of four Dutch newsmen, Ungo said this atrocity again demonstrated that at official levels in El Salvador democracy and truth are subversive. [as published]

Question and Contradiction

Alan Riding, a traveling correspondent for the New York TIMES and one of those condemned to death by Salvadoran rightist paramilitary bands, asked Ungo's opinion of the documents published on Saturday by the U.S. State Department. The documents allegedly prove two things: that in December, Cuban President Fidel Castro decided to step up his support for the Salvadoran guerrillas' efforts to sabotage the 28 March elections and that the central headquarters of the Salvadoran guerrillas is in Nicaragua.

On the first point, Ungo said if Cuba had really provided up to 200 tons of weapons between December and the present, there would now be at least 100,000 perfectly armed guerrillas. "However, the U.S. Government contradicts itself when it admits that the guerrilla forces number no more than 7,000," he said.

Regarding the guerrilla headquarters being in Nicaragua, Ungo said the U.S. Government is always trying to present international solidarity with the Salvadoran people's struggle from the angle of its own interests.

"Entire countries like Mexico and France recognize us and even conservative governments like Norway's have met with us. We are often received by foreign ministers, presidents and parliamentary committees all over the world, but the United States is determined to see and highlight only our relations with Nicaragua and Cuba.

"To see Nicaragua as the center of command of the Salvadoran people's army is to close one's eyes to reality," he said.

"Wars cannot be waged by remote control and both the FMLN and the FDR have leaders inside and outside El Salvador working for an integral and pluralist concept of the struggle, both domestically and internationally," Ungo said.

Asked to give a prognosis on the future relations between the United States and Nicaragua after the 28 March elections, Ungo noted the trend followed by the United States in the Salvadoran crisis.

"First there was the war of reforms, which failed. Then there was the war of elections, which is also going to fail. They are thus faced with two main alternatives: either openly launch an interventionist war or continue to promote war, this time through negotiation.

"In the case of Nicaragua, we are concerned that there may be negotiation with destabilization," Ungo said.

Guillermo Ungo said the revolutionary forces do have greater freedom of movement in the world's democratic countries. "That is obvious," he said. "However, our presence in Managua is due to the fact that a delegation of European parliamentarians interested in talking with us is going to pass through here."

Ungo's news conference took place in the Intercontinental Hotel. During the conference, the Salvadoran leader declined to give the place and date of an important meeting he will hold with Mexican Foreign Secretary Castaneda.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA NOTES U.S. RESPONSE TO UN PRESENTATION

PA262000 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Mar 82

[News conference held by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the flag room at Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport on his return from a UN Security Council session in New York -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] We have taken our revolution's message of peace to the forum of all the world's nations. We have warned of and reported the danger of aggression, in an effort to forestall it. We have reaffirmed to the world's nations that Nicaragua is firmly determined to preserve its independence and its revolution.

We have made this new effort for our heroic people, to seek the peace that our humble people have earned with dignity. We have made this effort for our workers of the countryside and the city, our peasants, to seek a future of peace for our youths and the children of Nicaragua.

We can say to our people with pride that their struggle and their revolution enjoy the admiration and sympathy of the mature and responsible men of the earth. We were listened to with respect. Our presence at the United Nations was a matter of great interest to the representatives of governments of different continents and to the international press.

We addressed the U.S. people to have them ask their rulers to show maturity and responsibility. We reaffirmed our solidarity with the fraternal people of El Salvador and with the just interests of the Central American people, who do not want interventions. We reaffirmed that the Sandinist revolution, in addition to its commitment to peace, is a source of stability in Central America.

Our country is small, but it has immense moral authority, and we spoke at the United Nations with the moral strength that we have received from our people and our revolution. We can say that our trip was a success and that it is a triumph of the revolution's policies and a great victory for our people. We cannot yet dismiss the dangers. We have to remain alert, strengthening the defense measures of the revolution and the full combat readiness of all our people.

[Question] After your appearance at the United Nations, and in view of the recent attacks and new harassment on the border yesterday morning, do you believe that there can still be direct Cuba-United States, Nicaragua-United States talks, as were proposed to be held in Mexico?

[Answer] If there is real interest in seeking and finding peace, those facts, although they are certainly negative, should not be decisive in preventing a continued advance in that direction, in the direction of supporting negotiations.

[Question] Commander, after your presentation before the UN Security Council, what attitude did you observe among U.S. Government representatives at that organization as regards achieving peace in the Central American region?

[Answer] The only reaction that was immediately observable was that of Mrs Kirkpatrick, who is the U.S. ambassador to the United Naitons. You are already aware of what Mrs Kirkpatrick said about the Nicaraguan presentation, and I really do not think it was a response that was a referendum [break in transmission] with that of Nicaragua.

[Question] Commander Ortega, the U.S. ambassador will present his credentials in Managua today. I understand also that leaders of the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador] left for Mexico today, possibly to meet with Foreign Secretary Castaneda. This seems to indicate a new phase in a search for talks. What does Nicaragua propose at this time to strengthen that mechanism, if that is indeed the intention?

[Answer] Regarding the U.S. ambassador's presentation of credentials in Nicaragua, we have to view this within the relations that Nicaragua has been promoting with the United States, which some months ago took our representatives to Washington. Concerning the arrival of the U.S. representative, it provides an opportunity for greater contact with the Nicaraguan Government.

As regards the trip that my have been made by representatives of the FDR, I could not comment, although any effort that is made is not too much to support a negotiated political solution to the crisis in the Central American area.

[Question] Commander Ortega, (Maria Luisa Talavera) of BARRICADA. Do you believe that Mrs Kirkpatrick's reaction to your presentation at the UN Security Council yesterday reflects the attitude of the Reagan administration or any other (?government official)?

[Answer] We hope that this is not the final word of the U.S. administration. We think that it was a somewhat hasty reaction and did not really address the specific proposals presented by Nicaragua. We have to wait for a serious response. We are obliged to wait for and demand one from the U.S. administration.

[Question] Commander, (Ernesto Burto) of EL NUEVO DIARIO. Considering the precedent set by the fact that countries like Israel and South Africa have contemptuously ignored decisions of the UN Security Council, what should our people expect from the Security Council as regards our effort to achieve peace?

[Answer] Basically, and above all, we will defend peace by strengthening the internal defense of our revolution. Ultimately, defense of Nicaragua's sovereignty will depend on the lives of Nicaraguans. However, it is indisputable that these international organizations, the UN Security Council in this case, are important enough to be taken into account. They are factors that can really help to contain, to persuade, to support a negotiated political solution in the area and to condemn any interventionist or aggressive act. Of course, this does not rule out such an act, but it is a very important moral factor to be taken into account.

[Question] (Abel Moraya) of Channel 13. Pardon me for insisting, sir. Is there still a firm intention to hold the Nicaragua-United States talks in Mexico?

[Answer] We continue to support President Lopez Portillo's initiative. We officially announced this at the United Nations previously, as we have again affirmed it.

AMBASSADOR ROA CRITICIZES KIRKPATRICK SPEECH

PA270002 Paris AFP in Spanish 2312 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 26 Mar (AFP) -- Cuba today termed the speech delivered yesterday before the UN Security Council by U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick in response to Sandinist Commander Daniel Ortega a "long tiresome speech" and a futile outburst of sleepless dramatism."

The Cuban ambassador to the United Nations was the first speaker of the council session which continued its work this afternoon following Thursday's charges by Nicaragua against the United States.

In a speech described as extremely harsh, the Cuban representative reached the point of comparing Kirkpatrick's speech with a "strange UFO (unidentified flying object) which broke into the calm atmosphere of this council, the curious concept of a paranoid predisposition of revolutionaries of all latitudes."

Roa accused the U.S. ambassador of "trying to make us believe that the origin of the crisis in Central America stems from an alleged subversive wave that the Governments of Cuba and Nicaragua guide by remote control."

"Washington ignores the real origin of Central American insurgency," Roa added, asserting that the roots of the same are found in "ignorance, misery, oppression and underdevelopment."

The Cuban ambassador emphasized: "It is totally false, entirely false that Cuba is sending arms to the Salvadoran revolutionaries."

"This does not mean," he added, "that we do not have the right to assist in the liberation of a sister people. After all, Mr Reagan's government attributes itself the right to (?aid) the bands of the traitor Savimbi (in Angola), not to mention being a renowned accomplice of the Israeli misdeeds."

Roa stressed: "Much has been said lately of the U.S. will to negotiate...and what we must know is if the current U.S. administration is disposed to recognize the unpostponable necessity that there should be deep changes in Latin America."

He reiterated that his government supports the initiative of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo to open a process of negotiations to discuss the conflict in Central America. In this regard, he noted Cuba's invariable position in principle, its disposition to negotiate with the United States to normalize its relations with the government of that country.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick, who is chairing this month's Security Council, took notes during Roa's speech. She listened silently to Roa and later gave the floor to Mexican Ambassador Porfirio Munoz Ledo who was the second speaker of the afternoon.

REPORT ON DANIEL ORTEGA'S SPEECH AT UN

FL261333 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Nicaragua, Cuba, and the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] of El Salvador have confirmed to the UN Security Council their willingness to find a political solution to the Central American drama. The proposal was taken to the UN Security Council by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government junta, who addressed the council to tell the international community about the critical situation in Central America.

Nicaragua, Ortega asserted, is ready to start immediate, direct and open talks with the U.S. Government -- even in a third country chosen by mutual agreement -- to reach concrete results. The Salvadoran patriots also authorized us to convey their willingness to begin immediate negotiations without prior conditions, once again reiterating the appeal I made in their name at the last period of sessions of the UN General Assembly, Ortega stressed.

The revolutionary Government of Cuba, Ortega said, has authorized me to inform this Security Council of its willingness also to begin immediate negotiations.

The Sandinist leader added that Nicaragua is ready to immediately sign nonaggression pacts with all bordering countries in the Central American area so that the area's internal peace and stability can be guaranteed.

Ortega blamed the Ronald Reagan administration for the present destabilization process in Central America. He spoke of the training camps for former Somozist guardsmen in Florida. The Nicaraguan leader added that 2,000 Somozist counterrevolutionaries are trained in Honduras by officials from the operations section of the CIA's hemispheric affairs division. The Nicaraguan chief of state said that in the past 5 months these groups have penetrated into several towns in Zelaya, Chinandega and Nueva Segovia Departments, leaving behind a tragic toll of 77 dead and 20 injured among civilians and military.

Ortega Saavedra noted that U.S. television recently presented proof that the Somozist counterrevolutionaries and Latin American mercenaries were trained by U.S. and Argentine officers.

U.S. representative to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick reacted sharply to the Nicaraguan charges that her country is preparing to intervene in Central America. The U.S. ambassador answered Nicaraguan chief of state Daniel Ortega with insults. The diplomat tried to discredit Ortega's charges which she described as "fanciful." She emphasized the large economic aid given by the United States to Nicaragua, forgetting that her government cancelled the credits.

Television Commentary

FL261825 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1239 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Commentary by Roberto Agudo and Javier Rodriguez from Revista de la Manana program on 26 March -- live]

[Text] [Roberto Agudo] Well, dear viewers, you are aware, of course, that Nicaragua is an important issue, not only for us Latin Americans, but also for the world at large. Therefore, the UN stand of the coordinator of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, Comrade Daniel Ortega, is of special interest to all.

Let's start from the end. According to experts the UN Security Council will soon, that is, this morning, have to debate and decide whether it will have to analyze Nicaragua's charges of U.S. preparations for aggression, whether it falls within the jurisdiction of the Security Council or whether -- in keeping with the position of the U.S. representative -- the subject must first be discussed at the OAS.

There is something upon which we must insist: If certain things or events are viewed by themselves, they could seem unrelated. However, if they are grouped and analyzed jointly, in most cases, they show us the core of a problem, expose a strategy and, especially, indicate a given position.

I have to say this because once again, by grouping isolated facts, we can understand the situation. Washington's request at the UN Security Council to transfer Nicaragua's charges to the OAS is aimed not only at taking the case outside the jurisdiction of the United Nations, that is, the world public opinion -- taking into account the structure of the United Nations and the fact that the issue is being discussed at the Security Council -- but also to reduce the charge to a regional problem and to deal with it in an environment more favorable to the United States, as the OAS is.

We also must point out that it is no coincidence this Yankee request was made together with a proposal of the so-called Nicaragua democratic coordinating board -- which was well termed by Ortega during his speech and in a press conference held after the speech -- as a group of traitors. It also coincides with a meeting held between Reagan, Haig and the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras. The overt objective of this meeting was to analyze the so-called U.S. economic plan for the Caribbean, but everyone knows that, in fact, the issues discussed were the situation in Central American, the elections in El Salvador, the conspiracy against Nicaragua and anti-Cuban maneuvers.

Well, we have started from the end and given you a few thoughts of our own by way of an introduction to the subject which we will now discuss with Comrade Javier Rodriguez.

[Javier Rodriguez] Yes, well, I believe that aside from the various maneuvers in which the United States is engaging so as to divert Nicaragua's charges toward the OAS; aside from their propaganda campaign which the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick started even before the meeting of the Security Council -- Over which by sheer coincidence she happens to be presiding this month since it is the turn of the United States -- aside from all these maneuvers, the truth is that the United States has not been able to avoid something which has become pretty obvious: that the United States is again sitting on the bench of the accused.

No doubt, Daniel Ortega's stand at the United Nations had considerable impact. To lessen this impact, every kind of maneuvers has been tried and every type of propaganda tricks has been set into motion. Thus, we see that the Honduran ambassador has been ordered to submit an alleged peace proposal to the OAS; that the Kirkpatrick [word indistinct] delayed the meeting of the Security Council on the grounds that there were other proposals, that she had to hold talks and so forth, so that the meeting of the Security Council was delayed considerably, that a strong attempt was made to publicly downplay Nicaragua's charges and the possibility that it could submit, as it has done, conclusive evidence to the Security council.

The truth is that all this has been to no avail as far as disguising the real situation goes and Ortega's statement did not contain simply general charges nor was it a mere virulent attack on the United States. What he did was to submit concrete evidence which the U.S. representative did not refute at all.

I have been anlyzing Ortega's statement and he pointed out several concrete things, for example, the fact that there are training camps for former Somoza guardsmen in Florida, something which everyone knows since it has even been filmed and disseminated by U.S. television networks; that 2,000 pro-Somoza counterrevolutionaries are being trained in Honduras -- and at this point Ortega indicated that these people are being trained directly by officers of the operations section of the hemispheric affairs division of the CIA -- in camps near the Nicaraguan borders, the attacks perpetrated by Honduran planes against Nicaraguan ships and the destruction of bridges -- all this is very well known -- along with the decision to build U.S. military bases in Honduras, the patrolling of a U.S. spy ship in the Fonseca Gulf near the coast of Nicaragua to spy on and jam Nicaragua's communications, the maneuvers of the U.S. Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone, the 40 violations of Nicaragua's airspace by U.S. aircraft, the training of three companies of former Somoza guardsmen in the Canal Zone and the electronic siege, as Ortega called it, which the United States had laid around Nicaragua's communication channels.

But above anything else, we must stress the utilization of the Canal Zone by the Argentine Army as a stopover for the airlift carrying military aid to El Salvador. This, equally clear-cut charge -- although the Argentine ambassador later refuted it, of course, but without supplying any supporting evidence -- is in Central America and the Caribbean, which is being carried out now, with the cooperation of Southern Cone countries which together with the United States are engaged in aggressively threatening El Salvador and Nicaragua with direct intervention.

This conclusive evidence which Daniel Ortega submitted to the Security Council -- evidence which in many cases included names and details -- had a double effect when the other side of the coin came up. What this means is that Daniel Ortega, on behalf not only of Nicaragua but also on behalf and with the authorization of the Cuban revolutionary government and the authorization of the representative organizations of Salvadoran revolutionaries, outlined the other side of the coin, that is, the peaceful position, open to dialogue and discussion, of Cuba, Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolutionaries, as opposed to the warmongering and aggressive position of the United States in this part of the world. Thus, the aggression, the intervention, the danger which peace is facing, are being denounced but in addition to all this it is being said that there is predisposition toward unconditional talks as long as there is a possibility to guarantee that this continental and world peace in general will not be disrupted by this aggressive, this truly insane policy of the United States which the Reagan administration is implementing.

These are the two things which we must emphasize, Agudo, in Daniel Ortega's stand at the United Nations: his strong denunciation and the clear-cut and positive attitude of Cuba, Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolutionaries toward opening negotiations and toward frank and unconditional talks so as to preserve peace in this part of the world and even in the world as a whole.

[Roberto Agudo] Yes, Javier, Commander Ortega stated he was not going to the Security Council to either challenge or defy the United States but to state things as they are and I would like to insist on what you said that he did not make general charges. Concretely summarizing Ortega's statement, what was Nicaragua's position at the Security Council? Ortega said that if Honduras' territory is no longer used as the base for armed aggressions and terrorist operations against Nicaragua, then there will be peace; if the movement of arms and counterrevolutionaries between the United States and Honduras for later use in Nicaragua stops, then there will be peace; if training camps for counterrevolutionaries in the United States, especially in Florida, are disbanded, then there will be peace; If the CIA stops financing, training and organizing gangs and conspiracies against Nicaragua, then there will be peace; if U.S. espionage, both from air and sea, against Central America and Nicaragua, is discontinued, then there will be peace. In sum, Ortega proposed that should the current U.S. administration undertake an official and explicit commitment not to attack Nicaragua or to launch or promote any type of direct or indirect intervention -- either overt or covert -- in Central America, then there will be peace.

[Javier Rodriguez] But one thing is obvious, Roberto, and that is what the United States must do at the international level. No one is asking the United States to make any special concessions, simply, it must comply with the standing rules for international behavior, rules which it has violated repeatedly in connection with Nicaragua.

We also must point out that Ortega's stand has greater strength because Cuba supported it at the meeting on behalf of the Nonaligned Movement. That is, Cuban Ambassador Raul Roa, on behalf of the Nonaligned Movement, stated at the Security Council, our support for Ortega's stand. This means that now this stand has a greater strength and it is up to the Security Council to decide what it must do and the eyes of the entire world are on it.

[Roberto Agudo] Well, I would like to comment, before finishing this, on the attitude of Argentina, for example. According to reports received from news agencies, Argentina categorically rejected charges of interventionism and conspiracy against Nicaragua, without taking into account that just a few hours earlier U.S. television showed a documentary on U.S. and Argentine military officers training pro-Somoza counterrevolutionaries in Honduras. In its reports, U.S. television indicated that these Argentine militarymen, at the very time the Argentine ambassador was refuting direct intervention [passage indistinct] this country's army to avoid complications. Nevertheless, exercising incredible cynicism, the ambassador said this was not true and added that he did not even watch television.

So you can see that they are always falling into contradictions. Haig said there can be negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrillas, Fischer says no such negotiations are possible. They are always wrapping themselves up in contradictions.

Well, comrades, we have taken 4 minutes more for our commentary today and now we must thank you all for your attention.

AALAPSO MARKS DOMINICAN INVASION ANNIVERSARY

FL261658 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The Executive Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Latin American People's Solidarity Organization [AALAPSO] issued a statement on the 17th anniversary of the invasion of the Dominican Republic by U.S. troops. The statement emphasizes that 17 years after the Yankee invasion of this Caribbean country, the United States again is trying -- through the use of force -- to stop revolutionary and progressive movements in Central America and the Caribbean.

On 28 April 1965, the statement says, then U.S. President Lyndon Johnson ordered the military intervention of the Dominican Republic to criminally crush the desires for liberation of a nation led by Francisco Caamano.

Latin America and the Caribbean today confront the reactionary, exploitative and warlike policy of Yankee imperialism which threatens the peace and independence of peoples, the statement stresses. A repetition of what happened 17 years ago in the Dominican Republic cannot be allowed to happen under any circumstances in Central America, the Caribbean or anywhere else in the world, the AALAPSO statement concludes.

MACHADO VENTURA LEAVES GDR, TRAVELS TO PRAGUE

FL271857 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Jose Machado Ventura, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo, today concluded a visit to the GDR which lasted several days. At the air terminal, the Cuban leader was seen off by Horst Dohlus, member of Germany's Socialist Unity Party Politburo.

Machado Ventura traveled to Prague where he will remain several days on an official visit.